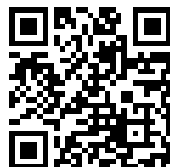

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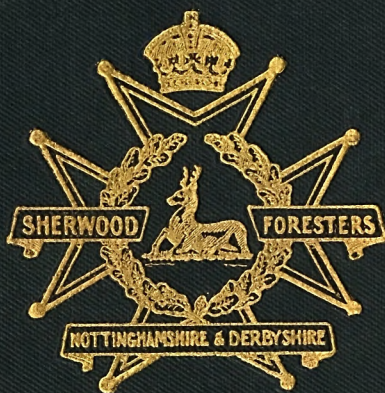
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1921

Regimental Annual

THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE
REGIMENT**

1921

Regimental Annual

THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE
REGIMENT

EDITED BY

COLONEL H. C. WYLLY, C.B.

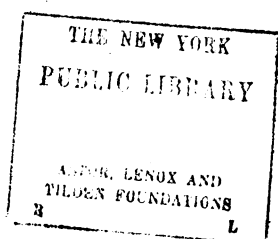
"To set the Cause above Renown,
To love the Game beyond the Prize."

HENRY NEWBOLT.



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1921



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REGIMENTAL ANNUAL

I

THE GREEN MARINES

"FOR several years," so Richard Cannon tells us, "Spain had beheld with great jealousy the growing commerce and increasing naval consequence of Great Britain, particularly in the neighbourhood of her possessions in South America, where Spain had endeavoured to monopolise the whole commerce and wealth of Mexico and Peru ; the vessels of foreign Powers were forbidden under severe penalties to approach within a certain distance of her American possessions ; and to enforce this the American seas were filled with Spanish cruisers, whose enormities at length attracted the attention of the British Parliament. After fruitless representations to the court of Madrid for redress, the British Ministry at length determined on hostilities ; and with the acclamations of the nation war was formally declared against Spain on the 23rd of October, 1739."

The land forces were now augmented, and six regiments of Marines were raised, each of 10 companies containing 70 privates. To help on the rapid formation of these regiments 5 men from each company of the foot-guards were appointed sergeants and corporals, while a bounty of 30s. per man was allowed to 1800 volunteering from the line.

The 2nd Regiment of Marines was raised on November 18th, 1839. Colonel W. Robinson, from the 22nd Regiment, was appointed to command, and it was given precedence in the Regiments of the Line as the 45th Foot. The facings of the uniform and the silk of the Colours were green, hence the name of the "Green Marines" ; the ship shown in the centre of the Colours was red.

In the year 1740 these six regiments were increased by 30 men per company, which, including officers, made the total strength of each 1155, all ranks. In October of this year the Green Marines sailed from St. Helens for Carthage as part of the reinforcements sent out under General Lord Cathcart, escorted by a fleet commanded by Rear-Admiral Sir Chaloner Ogle, and after a stormy voyage had got as far as the Island of Dominica when Lord Cathcart died, and was succeeded in command of the expedition by Brig.-Gen. Wentworth. On the 15th March, 1841, the enemy having evacuated two of their forts after a brief bombardment, the troops were landed, and the forts of Boccho Chica and Grande Castello were gained; but in the escalade of the castle of St. Lazar Lieut.-Col. Francis Thompson of the Green Marines was killed.

On the 14th June, 1741, Colonel Robert Fraser from the 3rd Marines, whose first commission was dated 24th April, 1708, succeeded Colonel Robinson in command. The forts and castle of the harbour of Carthage having been demolished, the expeditionary force sailed for Jamaica, and was later employed in operations against the Island of Cuba. The troops suffered terribly from exposure and climate, and at the end of 1741 the force had lost no fewer than 198 officers, and the 2nd Marines, or 45th Regiment, had only 158 non-commissioned officers and men left for duty.

The bulk of the Marine Corps employed under Ogle and Wentworth appear to have gone home—what was left of them—in September, 1742.

The next authentic mention of the employment on service of the 2nd Regiment of Marines seems to have been when they formed part of the expedition which sailed in November, 1747, under Admiral Boscawen, to reinforce the British Fleet in the East Indies, with special orders to make an attack upon Mauritius and effect the conquest of Pondicherry. The attempt upon Mauritius was abandoned, and the force sailed on to the coast of Coromandel and was landed at Fort St. David at the end of July, 1748. The siege of Pondicherry began with the capture of the fort of Ariancopang, which was taken after two desperate assaults; but there was much sickness in the British force, the rainy season was at hand,

and the defences of Pondicherry was found to be very strong, and the siege was not proceeded with.

At the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle of October, 1748, the Army was reduced, and the existing regiments of Marines were disbanded, the officers being placed on half-pay. The 2nd Regiment, the Green Marines, or 45th Foot, was finally broke on the 9th November of that year ; and in consequence the numerical titles of six of the line regiments next in order were changed, when the then 56th Regiment, commanded by Colonel D. Houghton, became the 45th Regiment of Foot.

A complete list of the officers appointed to the 2nd Marines on formation is given in *Notes and Queries*, 12, Series III, October, 1917, pp. 438, 439.

The uniform was as follows : a high, almost sugar-loaf shaped cap of green cloth, having a Crown in red and gold, below the letters G.R. in red, and below that again a half-circle in red enclosing the Brunswick Star in silver.

A long red full-skirted coat with green facings, white lace and pewter buttons, a red waistcoat and full cuffs of green. Brown belt with a black ball-pouch, brown spatter-dashes and black gaiters.

II

MY "BAPTÊME DE FEU"

BY H. L. S.-D.*

*The Battle of Isandhlwana (erroneously called
Isandula), 22nd January, 1878.*

IN 1878, when matters were becoming critical in Zululand, General the Honourable F. A. Thesiger,† a 95th man and then Colonel of the Regiment, telegraphed from Natal to the O.C. the 95th (then quartered at Athlone) and asked for the services of three officers of his old regiment—Captain Arthur Tower, Lieut. Walter Hore and myself. I was Acting-Adjutant at the time—Sparkes, the real Adjutant, being away on leave. Tower and Hore were also on leave and, under instructions from the Colonel, I told them they could not be spared. I conclude I took a different view from the Colonel, for although he told me I could not be spared, I telegraphed to the Military Secretary at the War Office, saying I was ready to start for the Cape at a moment's notice in any capacity in which H.R.H. the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief thought fit to employ me. On thinking the matter over afterwards I came to the conclusion it was a very wrong thing to have done, and I cannot advise young officers now in the Regiment to follow my bad example. I am bound to say I did not regret it at the time, especially as it paid, for within a few hours an order came from the War Office telling the C.O. that I was to embark for the Cape within forty-eight hours, and off I went.

In the following I am practically copying an account

* General Sir H. L. Smith-Dorrien, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel of the Sherwood Foresters.

† He succeeded his father as Lord Chelmsford in October, 1878.

written at the request of the Officers of the South Wales Borderers in 1907, so that the Regiment might have a story of the deeds of the 1/24th and of Lieuts. Melville and Coghill at the Battle of Isandhlwana from an eye-witness.

I was employed as a Transport Officer in the Zulu War, and accompanied Lord Chelmsford's force when it advanced into Zululand from Rorke's Drift in January, 1879.

On the night of the 21st January the force was camped on the east side of the Isandhlwana Hill, about 10 miles from Rorke's Drift. At about midnight I was sent for by Gen. Lord Chelmsford and told to take a dispatch back to Rorke's Drift for Col. Durnford, R.E., who was expected there with reinforcements consisting of native levies. I rode back, arriving at Rorke's Drift just before dawn on the 22nd and delivered my dispatch. It ought to have been a very jumpy ride, for I was entirely alone and the country was wild and new to me, and the road little better than a track, but pride at being selected to carry an important dispatch and the valour of ignorance (for I only realised next day that the country was infested with hostile Zulus) carried me along without a thought of danger. Col. Durnford was just moving off with his levies towards Sandspruit (away from Isandhlwana), but on reading the dispatch which conveyed instructions to move up to reinforce the Isandhlwana camp (as Lord Chelmsford, with the main body of the force, leaving the camp standing, was moving out some miles to the east to attack the Zulu Army), he at once changed the direction of his march. I had several arrangements to make for transport at Rorke's Drift, amongst others erecting a gallows for making riems; this gallows was some 15 feet high, and the process consisted of cutting hides of bullocks into strips about an inch wide, working in a circle; the strips then had the appearance of the peel of an apple all coiled up, and in order to be fashioned into straight straps, had to be passed over the gallows and through a weighted waggon wheel below. These strips were then worked over the gallows and through the wheel, stretched and rubbed with fat until the curves were lost, resulting in very long, soft strips of hide, which could eventually be cut into lengths for tying to the horns of oxen as head ropes.

It is interesting to relate that the first use I saw the gallows put to was for hanging Zulus who were supposed to have behaved treacherously the day after the Rorke's Drift fight.

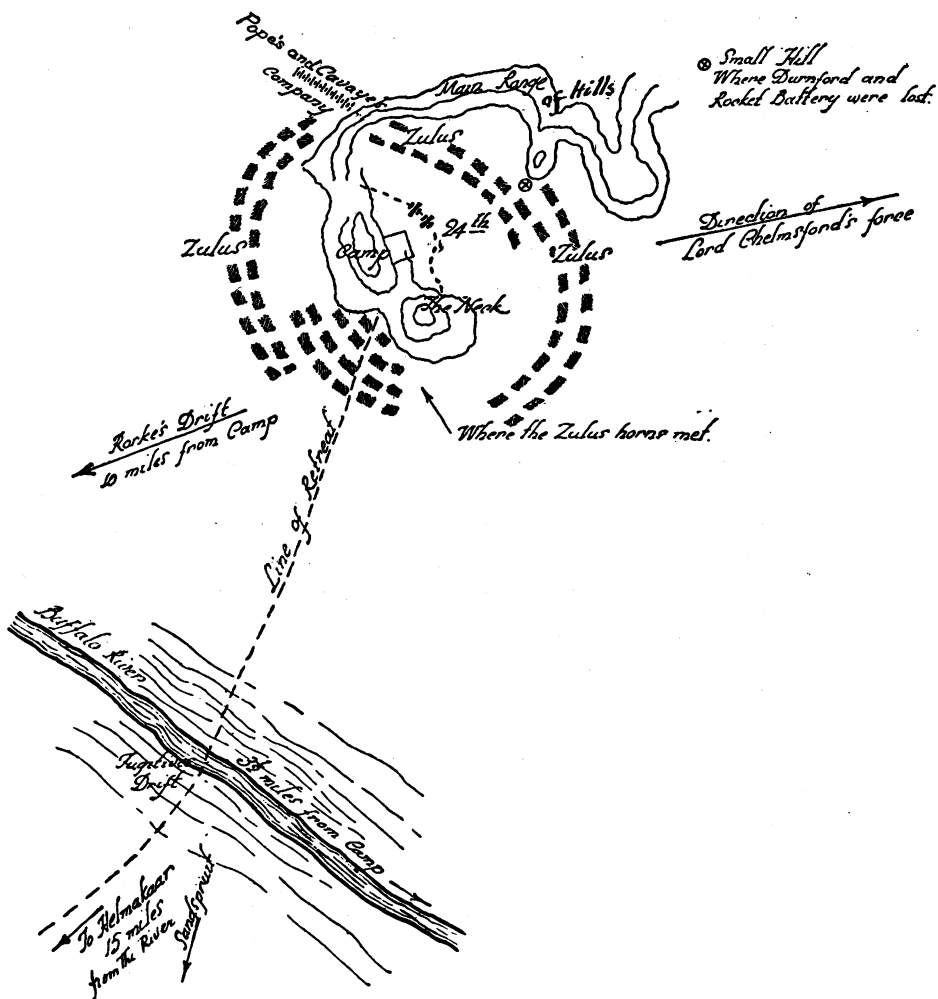
After starting the gallows, I went up to see Capt. "Gonny" Bromhead* in command of the Company of the 24th, and I told him a big fight was expected and that I wanted revolver ammunition. He gave me 11 rounds, and hearing heavy guns over at Isandhlwana, I rode off and got into that camp about 8 a.m., just as Col. Durnford's force arrived. Col. Durnford was having a discussion with Lieut.-Col. Pulleine of the 24th, who had been left by Lord Chelmsford in command of the camp—Lord Chelmsford and all the troops, including the 2/24th, having gone out to attack the Zulus.

Lieut.-Col. Pulleine's force consisted of six companies of the 1/24th, 2 guns under Bt.-Major Smith and Lieut. Curling, and some native levies. As far as I could make out the gist of Cols. Durnford's and Pulleine's discussion was that the former wished to go out and attack the Zulus, whilst the latter argued that his orders were to defend the camp, and that he could not allow his infantry to move out.

Col. Durnford and his rocket battery under Russell, R.A., and his mounted Basutos under Cochrane (32nd) then rode off towards a small hill, apparently a spur of the main range, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the camp (see sketch A). Of the 24th one company (Lieuts. Pope and Cavaye) was on picket out of sight of camp and about a mile to the north on the main range. We could hear heavy firing in this direction even then (8 a.m.), and I believe the company was entirely annihilated in the course of the morning. The remaining five companies (for two under Major Upcher, with Lieuts. Clements, Palmes, Heaton and Lloyd, only reached Helma-kaar on the 22nd from the old Colony) were extended round the camp in attack formation, covering especially the front and left front, the line being continued to the right by native levies.

In consequence of the heavy firing to the north and the appearance of large numbers of Zulus on the main range of hills, and partly, I believe, to support Col. Durnford's move-

* Capt. Bromhead and Capt. Chard, R.E., were awarded V.C.'s for their defence of Rorke's Drift.



SKETCH A.

ment, the line was pushed out on a curve, but to no great distance from the tents. Farther than this it never went. Our 2 guns were at the same time pushed out into the firing line to the N.E. of the camp (see sketch A).

At about 12 a.m. the Zulus, who had apparently fallen back behind the hills, again showed in great numbers, coming down into the plain over the hills with great boldness, and our guns and rifles were pretty busy for some time, causing the Zulus again to fall back. It was difficult to see exactly what was going on, but firing was heavy.

It was evident now that the Zulus were in great force, for they could be seen extending (i.e. throwing out their horns) away across the plain to the S.E., apparently working towards the right rear of the camp. As far as I can make out Col. Durnford with his force never actually left the plain, but was close under the foot of the small spur he originally went to seize.

Nothing of importance occurred, beyond the constant increase of the Zulus and the spreading out of their horns, until about 1 p.m., when they started their forward movement direct on the camp. Our troops were in the positions they had occupied hours before, our 2 guns busy throughout shelling the enemy.

Forty-five empty waggons stood in the camp with the oxen in. It was a convoy which I was to have taken to Rorke's Drift for supplies early in the morning, but which was stopped until the enemy should be driven off. These waggons might have at any time been formed into a laager, but no one appeared to appreciate the gravity of the situation, so much so that no steps were taken until too late to issue extra ammunition from the large reserves we had in camp.

I will return to the advancing Zulu line at about 1 p.m. It was a marvellous sight, lines upon lines of men in slightly extended order, one behind the other, firing as they came along, for a few of them had fire-arms, bearing all before them.

The rocket battery, apparently then only a mile to our front, was firing heavily, when it ceased, and presently we saw the remnant of Durnford's force, mostly mounted Basutos, galloping back to the right of our position. What

had actually happened I don't think we shall ever know accurately. The ground was intersected with dongas, and in them poor Durnford and Russell with his rocket battery were caught, and none escaped to tell the tale.

And now the Zulu Army, having swept away Durnford's force, and I believe the company on picquet at the same time, flushed with victory, moved steadily on to where the five companies of the 24th were lying down covering the camp. They were giving vent to no loud war cries, but to a low musical murmuring noise, which gave the impression of a gigantic swarm of bees getting nearer and nearer. Here was a more serious matter for these brave warriors, for the regiment opposed to them were no boy recruits, but war-worn, matured men, mostly with beards, and fresh from a long campaign in the old Colony where they had carried everything before them. Possessed of splendid discipline, and sure of success, they lay in their position making every round tell, so much so that when the Zulu Army was some 400 yards off it wavered.

After the war the Zulus, who were delightfully naïve and truthful people, told us that the fire was too hot for them and they were on the verge of retreat, when suddenly the fire slackened and on they came again.

The reader will ask why the fire slackened, and the answer is, alas ! *because with thousands of rounds in the waggons 400 yards in rear, there was none in the firing line ; all those had been used up.*

I will mention a story here which speaks for the coolness and discipline of the regiment. I, having no particular duty to perform in camp, when I saw the whole Zulu Army advancing, had collected camp stragglers, such as artillerymen in charge of spare horses, officers' servants, sick, etc., and had taken them to the ammunition boxes, where we broke them open as fast as we could, and kept sending out the packets to the firing line. (In those days the boxes were screwed down and it was a very difficult job to get them open, and it was owing to this battle that the construction of the ammunition boxes was changed.)

When I had been engaged at this for some time, and the 24th had fallen back to where we were with the Zulus follow-

ing closely, Bloomfield, the Quartermaster of the 2/24th said to me: "For heaven's sake, don't take that, man, for it belongs to our Battalion." And I replied, "Hang it all, you don't want a requisition now, do you?"

It was about this time, too, that a colonial named Du Bois, a waggon conductor, said to me, "The game is up. If I had a good horse I would ride straight for Maritzburg." I never saw him again. I also about then saw a doctor, Shepherd by name, busy in a depression, treating wounded. This was also the last time I saw him.

To return to the fight; our right flank had become enveloped by the horn of the Zulus and the levies were flying before them. All the transport drivers, panic stricken, were jostling each other with their teams and waggons, shouting and yelling at their cattle, and striving to get over the neck (see sketch A) on to the Rorke's Drift road, and the red line of the 24th having fixed bayonets appeared to have but one idea, and that was to defeat the enemy. The Zulu charge came home, and driven back with their backs to the rock of Isandhlwana, and overpowered by about 30 to 1 they sold their lives dearly, and the best proof of this is the subsequent description of the Zulus themselves, who, so far from looking on it as a decisive victory, used to relate how their waggons were for days removing their dead, and how the country ran rivers of tears, almost every family bemoaning the loss of some near relative.

When this final charge took place, the transport which was in-spanned had mostly cleared the neck, and I jumped on my broken knee'd transport pony, which had had no rest for thirty hours, and followed it, to find on topping the neck a scene of confusion I shall never forget, for some 4000 Zulus had come in behind and were busy with shield and assegai. Into this mass I rode, revolver in hand, right through the Zulus, but they completely ignored me.

I heard afterwards that they had been told by their King "Cetywayo" that black coats were civilians and were not worth killing. I had a blue patrol on, and it is noticeable that the only five officers who escaped—Essex, Cochrane, Cardner, Curling and myself—had blue coats. The Zulus throughout my escape seemed to be set on killing natives

who had sided with us, either as fighting levies or transport drivers.

After getting through this mass of Zulus busy slaying, I followed in the line of fugitives. The outer horns of the Zulu Army had been directed to meet at about a mile to the S.E. of camp, and they were still some distance apart when the retreat commenced. It was this gap which fixed the line of retreat.

I could see the Zulus running in to complete their circle from both flanks, and their leading men had already reached the line of retreat long before I got there. When I reached the point I came on the two guns, which must have been sent out of camp before the Zulus charged home. They appeared to me to be upset in a donga and to be surrounded by Zulus.

Again I rode through unheeded, and shortly after was passed by Lieut. Coghill, 24th, wearing a blue patrol and cord breeches and riding a red roan horse. We just exchanged remarks about the terrible disaster, and he passed on towards Fugitive Drift. A little further on I caught up Lieut. Curling, R.A., and spoke to him, pointing out to him that the Zulus were all round and urging him to push on, which he did. My own broken knee'd transport pony was done to a turn and incapable of rapid progress.

The ground was terribly bad going, all rock and boulder, and I should think that it was about 3 or 4 miles from camp to Fugitive's Drift. When approaching this Drift, and at least half a mile behind Coghill, Lieut. Melville, 24th, in a red coat and with a cased Colour across the front of his saddle passed me going to the Drift. I reported afterwards that the Colour was broken, but as the pole was found eventually whole I think the casing must have been half off.

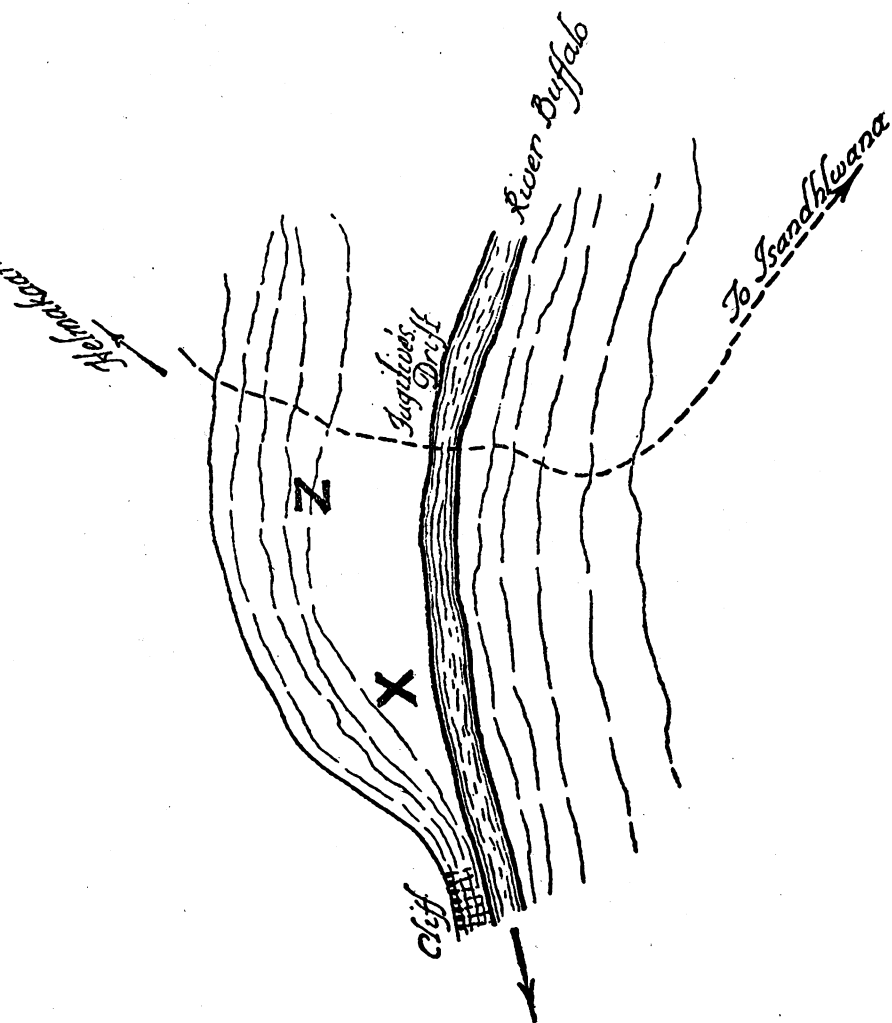
It will thus be seen that Coghill (who was Orderly Officer to Colonel Glynn) and Melville (who was Adjutant) did not escape together with the Colour. How Coghill came to be in the camp I do not know, as Colonel Glynn was out with Lord Chelmsford's column.

I then came to Fugitive's Drift, the descent to which was almost a precipice. I found there a man in a red coat badly assegaied in the arm unable to move. He was, I believe, a

mounted infantryman of the 24th, named Macdonald, but of his name I cannot be sure. I managed to make a tourniquet with a handkerchief to stop the bleeding, and got him half-way down, when a shout from behind said, "Get on man, the Zulus are on top of you." I turned round and saw Major Smith, R.A., who was commanding the section of guns, as white as a sheet and bleeding profusely, and in a second we were surrounded, and assegais accounted for poor Smith, my wounded M.I. friend and my horse. With the help of my revolver and a wild jump down the rocks I found myself in the Buffalo River, which was in flood and 80 yards broad. I was carried away, but luckily got hold of the tail of a loose horse, which carried me across to the other bank, but I was too exhausted to stick to him.

Up this bank were swarming friendly natives, but I only saw one European, a colonial and Acting Commissariat Officer, named Hamer, lying there unable to move. I managed to catch a loose horse and put him on it and he escaped. The Zulus were pouring in a very heavy fire from the opposite bank, and dropped several friendly natives as we climbed to the top. No sooner had I achieved this than I saw that a lot of Zulus had crossed higher up and were running to cut me off. This drove me off to my left, but 20 of them still pursued for about 3 miles, and I managed to keep them off with my revolver.

I got into Helmakaar at sundown, having done 20 miles on foot from the river, for I almost went to Sandspruit. At Helmakaar I found Huntley of the 10th, who had been left there with a small garrison, and also Essex, Cochrane, Curling and Gardner, from the field of Isandhlwana, all busy placing the post in a state of defence. We could see that night the watchfires of the Zulus some 6 miles off, and expected them to come on and attack, but we knew later they had turned off to attack Rorke's Drift. I at once took command of one face of the laager, and shall never forget how pleased we weary watchers were when shortly after midnight Major Upcher's two companies of the 24th, with Heaton, Palmes, Clements and Lloyd, came to reinforce. These two companies had started for Rorke's Drift that afternoon, but had been turned back to Helmakaar by Major Spalding, a Staff



SKETCH B.

Officer, as he said Rorke's Drift had been surrounded and captured, and that the two companies would share the same fate. Luckily, his information proved to be wrong.

Such is briefly my story of the 22nd January, 1878, and I have endeavoured to avoid personal incidents as far as possible.

I cannot refrain from remarking that had Lord Chelmsford's orders as laid down in his Standing Orders for the Field Force in Zululand been carried out the disaster would never have happened, for there it clearly directed that no force should ever camp in the enemy's country without entrenching, and yet not a sod was turned at Isandhlwana, and Lord Chelmsford was present there himself. Had this magnificent body of men been entrenched, the Zulus would have been driven off as they were subsequently at Kambula, for, as it was, they would have repulsed the Zulus in the open had not ammunition run short.

It will be interesting to discuss how the bodies of Lieuts. Melville and Coghill* were found together with the Colour, since they were so far apart in the retreat, and my belief is this, (as will be seen by the sketch B) :—

Below Fugitive's Drift the river flows into a deep cutting, and the right bank is inaccessible. The river was in flood, and a lot of fugitives, men and horses, must have been swept away through this gorge, or only have succeeded in effecting a landing well below the path leading from Fugitive's Drift up the right bank.

I surmise that Melville and Coghill may both have been swept down-stream towards X and there have met, and in endeavouring to get back together to the path of the fugitives, have been killed by Zulus who had crossed higher up. As far as I can make out, their bodies were found near Z.

* Both these gallant officers were awarded V.C.'s

III

1ST BATTALION NOTES

OUR last notes gave an account of the wanderings of the Battalion till its return from the Schleswig-Holstein Plebiscite Force in June, 1920.

As soon as the Battalion returned to its permanent station at Blackdown all ranks were granted fourteen days' leave in view of the fact that furlough had been cut short when the Battalion left for Flensburg.

The months of August, September and part of October were spent in an attempt to get the Battalion through its musketry, as there had been no opportunity to do so in Flensburg.

At the end of October our chief enemy, industrial unrest, was upon us, and the Battalion was standing by for several days to proceed on strike duty—in fact, on one occasion all the light baggage was loaded on the lorries ready to go to the station, when our move to London was cancelled.

At the beginning of December Lt.-Col. Bromley Way arrived from the Record Office at Lichfield to take over the command from Col. J. C. Harding Newman, who had been selected for a Staff appointment on the Headquarters of the Western Army in India.

By this time the strength of the Battalion was getting low, a draft of 200 men having been sent to join the 2nd Battalion at Alexandria early in November, and the supply of recruits from the Depot was very small. But one had hopes of being able to make a fresh start with training, etc., shortly after Christmas. A and B Companies started Company training and musketry during the last week in February, and all went well until the 6th of April, when the Battalion moved at short notice to London for strike duty. Unfortunately the preparations which had been made to celebrate "Badajoz" Day had to be abandoned at the last moment.

Whilst in London the Battalion was quartered under canvas in Kensington Gardens and experienced a very miserable, cold and wet time. On one day there was actually quite a heavy fall of snow.

Consequent on the calling up of the Army Reserve we were soon reinforced by just under 300 men. Most of these men were coal miners in civilian life, and, curiously enough, their one desire was to get back to work down in the mines. It was found that a number who were not miners were suffering through being taken away from their work, and approval was given for men under this category to be sent on indefinite leave. They left on May 7th, and the last reservist was demobilised on the 6th June. The Battalion returned to Blackdown on April 19th, after it was clear that the Transport Workers were not going to throw in their lot with the coal miners. Immediately after our return, C and D Companies started Company training and musketry. The musketry, so far as Tables B and L were concerned, was practically finished, and Company training just commenced when a warning was received, during the second week in June, that the Battalion was to be prepared to proceed to Ireland very shortly on temporary duty.

As the Battalion had been officially at Blackdown nearly two years it was thought that a change of station was imminent and that, in all probability, we should not return to Blackdown after the temporary duty, of the duration of which we had no idea, was finished. The last few days at Blackdown were therefore spent hurriedly packing up our heavy baggage prior to storing it at Blackdown in the barracks in charge of Lt.-Col. R. S. Popham, who was to stay behind in charge of the Details.

After the usual postponements the Battalion left Blackdown for Ireland on the 27th June, arriving at Cork two days later. On arrival the Battalion proceeded to Ballincollig by march route, where we were encamped in order that we might get accustomed to the particular kind of warfare which we were about to take part in.

FOOTBALL.

The season of 1920-21 was a fairly successful one for the Battalion football team, considering the difficulties which were encountered. The team entered for the Army Cup and the Senior Military League at Aldershot. In the first round of the Cup we were drawn against the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at Bordon, but were beaten by a more experienced and much older team by three goals to love, although the score was rather flattering to the winners, and if a penalty kick had been turned to account by Lce.-Corpl. Rillett when the winners were only one up, perhaps a different tale might have been told. Anyhow, we must not mourn over our first attempt to do what the 2nd Battalion did when they were at Plymouth.

The team made quite a good show in the Senior League, playing 18 matches, winning 15, losing 2, and drawing 1, the goal average reading 43 for and 19 against, which speaks for itself. In the semi-final for the Shield we were drawn against the 4th Hussars, whom we defeated by two goals to one after an exciting game. Our rivals in the final were the Royal Army Medical Corps, winners of the Army Cup for two years, so little hopes were entertained for our success. However, we gave quite a good show for half an hour, but the training and experience of our opponents told its tale, and in the end we were defeated by five goals to love. The team was composed of quite young players, several of whom appear to have a good future before them if they take the chances which will be placed before them. It is rather unfortunate that so many of the team decided to return to civil life, but hopes are entertained that there is plenty of young blood in the Battalion and that we may be more successful in the near future.

The only remaining members of the team now are Sergt. Townsend (captain), Lce.-Corpl. Rillett and C.Q.M.S. Armstrong, whom we shall have to depend upon to coach the younger players during the coming season.

The Company Football Shield was played for on the League system, and provided some exciting matches, the winners

being A Company (Capt. C. S. Crofton). Their figures were : Played 6, won 4, lost 1, drawn 1.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

It was impossible for the Battalion to play Rugby football last season as a Battalion owing to the difficulty of getting a ground. This was remedied too late in the season to allow a start being made. Several officers played in a combined team with the 1st Air Defence Brigade throughout the season.

Lieut. Allen played for the Army, Lieut. Allen and Lieut. Collins for the Command during the season.

CRICKET.

The Battalion did not arrive home from Flensburg, North Germany, until the last week in June, 1920, consequently no Regimental fixture list was arranged for that season, though we managed to play off the Company matches for the Cricket Shield, which was won by B Company ; also the Officers *v.* Sergeants match, which was won by the Sergeants by an innings and 16 runs.

The Officers *v.* Sergeants was our first match of the season, played on 14th August. The Officers, winning the toss, decided to bat, but fared very badly against the bowling of C.S.M. Tomalin and Sergt. Parkinson, the first named taking 7 wickets for 23 runs, and the latter 3 wickets for 21 runs. On the Sergeants going in they treated the Officers' bowling with the utmost contempt, amassing the respectable total of 192 before we were able to dismiss them all, after trying eight different bowlers.

The Sergeants' Mess entertained the Officers to lunch and tea on the ground, and we were joined by the married families of the Regiment during the afternoon, the band rendering an excellent programme of music under the able leadership of Mr. Dewsall.

It was a terrible blow to the Officers to get so decisively beaten, but I think everyone enjoyed a most delightful day, not forgetting the very great hospitality of the Sergeants' Mess.

1st Battalion Notes

19

SCORE.

Officers.

	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
Capt. Whicher	0 . . .	3
Lieut. Coleman	4 . . .	12
Major Mathias	3 . . .	3
Lieut. Johnson	3 . . .	25
Major Wybergh	23 . . .	21
Col. Harding Newman ..	3 . . .	35
Col. Popham	5 . . .	11
Lieut. Twamley	0 . . .	0
Capt. Mills	0 . . .	1
Major Collin	3 . . .	0
Lieut. Sellis	0 . . .	8
Extras	2 . . .	11
Total	46 . . .	130

Sergeants.

Sergt. Townsend	0
Sergt. Methven	47
Sergt. Parkinson	17
C.S.M. Tomalin	55
R.S.M. Cranage	9
Q.M.S. Sinton	4
Sergt. Hoskins	33
C.S.M. Thompson	22
Sergt. George	2
Sergt. Hiam	1
R.S.M. Laurence	2

Total 192

In the Company Cricket Shield Competition, A Company beat D Company, B Company beat C Company; and in the final B Company beat A Company by one run—a good finish.

This was all the cricket we were able to manage for the season of 1920.

We have made a fairly good start this season. Up to the time of writing we have played three Regimental matches, winning two and losing one. We have also played our annual

match of Officers *v.* W.O.'s and Sergeants, this time the Officers managing to defeat the W.O.'s and Sergeants by 23 runs.

Our first match was against the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, played at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, on 14th May, in delightful cricket weather. The Coldstream Guards entertained us to lunch before starting the game, which we won by 59 runs.

SCORE.

Sherwood Foresters.

Lieut. Johnson	13
Lieut. Allen	25
Lieut. Sullivan Tailyour .	0
Col. Way	13
C.S.M. Tomalin	0
Major Wybergh	4
Sergt. Townsend	57
Lieut. Slaughter	20
Sergt. Parkinson	4
Sergt. Hiam	12
Lieut. Coleman	0
Extras	19

Total 167

Coldstream Guards.

Major Edwards	19
Lieut. Forester Walker ..	6
Lieut. R. V. Martyn	9
Sergt. Soames	0
Lce.-Corpl. Natkins	1
W.S. Stuart Brown	21
Lce.-Corpl. Langford	33
Lieut. B. Milburn	10
Capt. Coats	0
Lieut. Firbank	0
D. Coles	0
Extras	9

Total 108

Bowling.

Lieut. Firbank	9 wickets for 45 runs.
Major Edwards	0 " " 53 "
Lieut. Martyn	0 " " 27 "
Sergt. Soames	1 " " 23 "
Lieut. Allen	4 wickets for 35 runs.
C.S.M. Tomalin	1 " " 42 "
Sergt. Parkinson ...	1 " " 42 "
Lieut. Tailyour	1 " " 5 "
Sergt. Hiam	1 " " 0 "
Lieut. Slaughter ...	1 " " 2 "

Our next match, against No. 3 Company R.M.C., Sandhurst, was played at Blackdown on 18th May, and resulted in a win for the Battalion by 28 runs.

1st Battalion Notes

21

SCORE.

Sherwood Foresters.

No. 3 Company R.M.C.

Lieut. Allen	24	J. Crawford	11
Lieut. Johnson (not out) .	64	V. Swales	5
C.S.M. Tomalin	0	E. A. Porch	23
Col. Way	1	W. Wadham	4
Major Wybergh	21	A. J. Elliott	9
Sergt. Hiam	4	E. Down	44
Lieut. Coleman	2	R. Oxley	14
Sergt. Parkinson (not out)	21	W. Roxon.....	0
C.S.M. Howarth	} Did not bat.	E. Bushell	6
Sergt. Samples		H. Long	3
Pte. Garside		C. A. Wigham	0
Extras	20	Extras	10
Total (6 wickets) ..	157	Total	129

Bowling.

Lieut. Allen 6 wickets for 57 runs.

C.S.M. Tomalin .. 3 " " 11 "

Sergt. Parkinson . 1 " " 34 "

Our next fixture was on the 23rd May at Blackdown against the 37th Brigade R.F.A., which we lost by 20 runs.

SCORE.

Sherwood Foresters.

37th Brigade R.F.A.

Lieut. Allen	27	Capt. Bather	7
Lieut. Johnson	18	Dr. Leggett	4
Sergt. Parkinson	8	Col. Bartholomew	9
Col. Way	12	Capt. Reynolds	60
Sergt. Townsend	5	Lieut. Dobree	4
Lieut. Coleman	0	Lt. Becher Jones	19
Lieut. Slaughter	0	Capt. Mostyn	15
Pte. Garside	16	Col. Bouchier	9
C.S.M. Tomalin	8	Lieut. Seagrim	0
Pte. Dexter	6	Gnr. Cox	0
C.S.M. Howarth	7	Sergt. Hood	0
Extras	15	Extras	15
Total	122	Total	142

Regimental Annual

Bowling.

Lieut. Allen	3 wickets for 41 runs.
C.S.M. Tomalin	2 " " 43 "
Sergt. Parkinson	5 " " 27 "

On the 6th June we brought off our annual fixture of Officers *v.* W.O.'s and Sergeants, and after a good match, each side completing two innings, the Officers managed to win by 23 runs. The Officers entertained the Sergeants to lunch, and were "at home" on the ground during the afternoon to the married families.

SCORE.

Officers.

	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
Lieut. Allen	19	19*
Major Wybergh	62*	2
Lieut. Johnson	7	8
Lieut. Coleman	2	36
Lieut. Slaughter	0	
Col. Way	0	14
Capt. Crofton	3	0
Capt. Wilkinson	7	0
Lieut. Weston	6	8
Lieut. Jones	0	
Lieut. Collings	0	
Extras	9	4
Total	121	91 (7 wks. decld.)

Sergeants.

	1st Innings.	
Sergt. Hoskins	21	C.S.M. Farley 0
Sergt. Parkinson	9	Sergt. Tindall 2*
C.S.M. Howarth	5	Sergt. Forrester 0
C.S.M. Tomalin	1	Sergt. Stotan 2
Sergt. Townsend	1	Extras 11
Sergt. Hiam	12	—
R.S.M. Cranage	10	Total 74

* Signifies not out.

2nd Innings.

Sergt. Hoskins	.....	1	C.S.M. Farley	.....	1
Sergt. Parkinson	.....	27	Sergt. Tindall	.....	3
C.S.M. Howarth	.....	12*	Sergt. Forrester	.....	0
C.S.M. Tomalin	.....	45	Sergt. Stotan	.....	1
Sergt. Townsend	.....	11	Extras	.....	10
Sergt. Hiam	.....	0			—
R.S.M. Cranage	.....	4	Total	.....	115

* Signifies not out.

On the 9th June we played the Irish Guards at the Officers' Club and managed to draw with them, "Time" saving us, they making 201 and we 159 for 9 wickets.

ATHLETICS.

During the latter part of the Battalion's stay in Flensburg the annual Standard Test Competition for the Athletic Shield was started, also a Platoon Competition for the Platoon which gained the highest number of points in the Standard Tests. The latter competition was for a silver cup given by Capt. and Quartermaster Booker to the Battalion for competition annually.

On the 15th July, 1920, one point only separated A and B Companies, who had 265 and 264 points respectively. D Company were third with 182 points, and C Company last with only 96 points—rather a bad drop.

Until September the Companies kept the same places with the exception of B Company going into first place. For the Platoon Cup, No. 6 Platoon were leading easily by over a 100 points. The competition finished on 30th September, 1920, and the Companies finished in the following order: B Company, 1492; A Company, 1460; C Company, 1253; D Company, 989.

The Booker Platoon Cup was won by No. 9 Platoon, C Company (Lieut. Smith).

C Company quite provided the sensation of the test, being well down for three parts of the competition and nowhere in the Platoon Cup. They eventually finished third, and took the Platoon Cup from No. 6 Platoon by 20 points. The

Battalion entered a team in the Aldershot Command Inter-Unit Competition, but only finished fifth. This can be explained by the fact that many of our competitors were only young soldiers, who ran very green, but will improve by experience.

We put in teams for the cross-country competitions, but could not get closer than fourth place. In the Aldershot Command Competition for Relay Teams this year we did much better, all our teams winning their heats and appearing in the final. We again finished a very close fourth out of twelve complete teams.

The Royal Engineers held their Annual Sports on the 29th May, and they opened their Relay race to the Command, the Battalion entering one team. The Royal Army Service Corps and ourselves left everyone else about 100 yards behind. However, they beat us on the post.

BOXING.

During the autumn of 1920 a Regimental Boxing Competition was held in the Garrison Gymnasium, Blackdown, under the management of Capt. Whicher and Lieut. Smith. The best fight of the evening was provided by Ptes. Brown and Whittle, both of C Company. They both fought splendidly, Whittle getting the decision by a very close margin of points.

The next competition in which the Battalion took part was the Novices' Competition open to the Aldershot Command, held at Maida Drill Hall, Aldershot. In this competition we gained second place. Mention must be made of Lce.-Corpl. Wood, who put up a splendid fight against Sergt. Slater of the East Lancashire Regiment, only just losing the decision.

The next competition took place in January, 1921, in the Garrison Theatre, Blackdown. Here, again, we gained second place. The last fight of the evening was put up by Boy Jones, who at the close of the evening was complimented by the referee, Capt. Daniels, V.C., who said it was a first-class example of pluck and endurance.

The miners and railwaymen were the ultimate cause of our next meeting. This took place at Kensington Gardens. Again, out of six regiments, we managed to gain second place. In this competition mention must be made of Pte. Johnson,

a reservist, who joined the Battalion at 5 p.m., and volunteered to fight at 6 p.m. He went right through the contest, eventually winning the final.

HOCKEY.

Hockey has not been such a success as we might have hoped for, due chiefly to the very adverse conditions to which it is subject, there being only one ground in the garrison. Nevertheless, on the days we could get the ground we arranged matches with various units and were very successful in most of them. The only competition of importance was that of the Aldershot Command Cup, in which we beat the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment after a very hard game, but unfortunately lost to the Dublin Fusiliers in the second round by two goals to one. However, the team was keen, and had they had the opportunity of training and playing more together they would have been a stiff proposition to tackle.

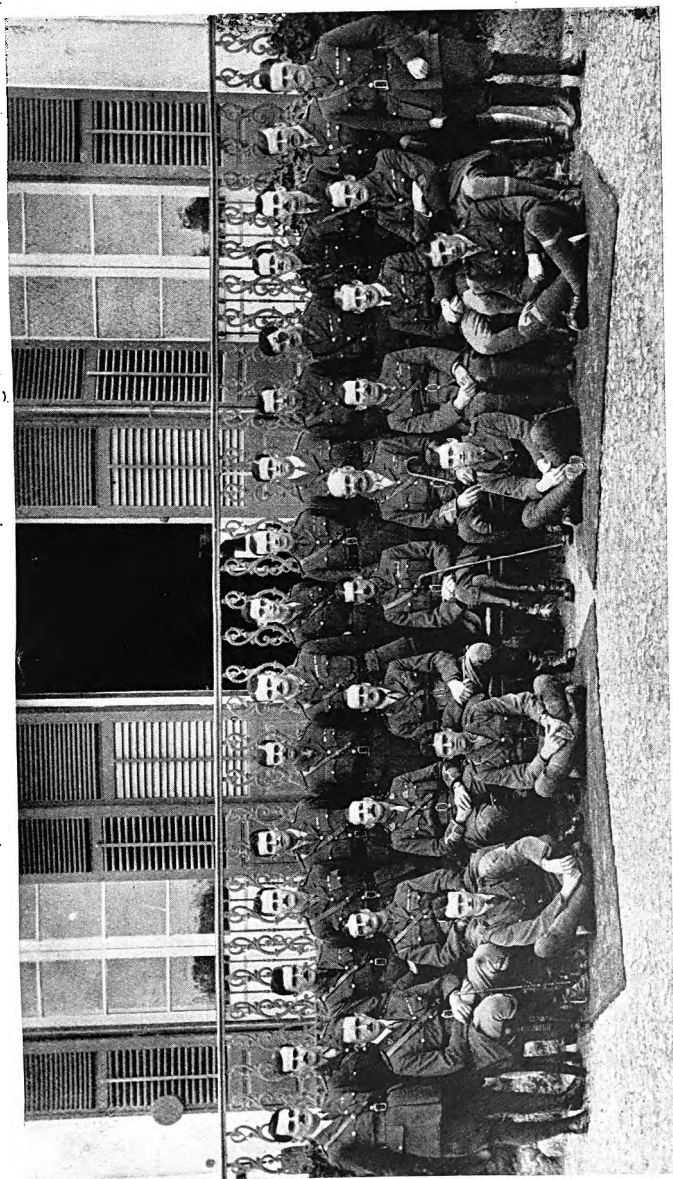
IV

2ND BATTALION NOTES

DAME rumour has once again proved herself a lying jade, for instead of finding ourselves en route for the East, as we had been led to believe and had hoped, the Battalion now finds itself under orders to move to Ismailia in the autumn. The change from Alexandria will be welcomed by everybody and will have many advantages, for we shall all be together, and there will be a chance of working together, and of restarting the various Company competitions, both in training and sport, of which we made such a feature and in which such keenness was shown throughout the Battalion before the great upheaval.

We have been working during the past twelve months under the same disadvantages as we experienced during 1919, one Company having been away on detachment almost the whole time. B Company, under Capt. J. H. M. Douglas, M.C., succeeded Major H. F. Watson's Company at Kantara, the Company being further split up by having to find detachments at Port Said and Suez. They returned to Headquarters in the late autumn, and for a time we were together, but trouble arose in Cyprus and we were again called on to find the detachment there. C Company, under Major J. H. Mathias, went off at a few hours' notice and proceeded straight to Nicosia, where they spent four very hot months before moving up to Troodos, the hill station. There they are spending a comfortable and happy time with lovely air, comfortable quarters and plenty of time for training and games.

Company training was carried out at Bahig, a waterhole and nothing else, on the Alexandria-Amria line. The Companies marched out there, taking three days to do the trek, and a fairly comfortable pitch was found for the camp under



OFFICERS 2ND BATTALION

Back Row—Lieuts. C. S. DORNTON, L. JACQUES, M.C., W. A. PLATT, N. A. MGD, WALKER, J. ST. J. BALGUY, W. A. EBSWORTH, G. F. MARCH, M.C., S. W. ADKINS, Capt. M. M. HARVEY, D.S.O., M.C., Lieuts. R. O. NEVITT, A. A. DEAN, W. M. ROBINSON, R. E. H. STOTT, C. R. WILMOT, J. E. WRIGHT, N. S. TEMPLE, M.C.

Seated—Capts. G. S. DOBBIE, M.C., J. H. DOUGLAS, M.C., Maj. H. F. WATSON, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lt.-Col. H. M. MILWARD, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. R. J. F. TAYLOR, C.B.E., Lt.-Col. DUMBELL, D.S.O., Maj. and Qr.-Mr. F. TOMLINSON, O.B.E., M.C., Capts. R. R. SHAWCROSS, J. P. WYLIE, D.S.O.

Front Row—2nd Lt. E. A. COXON, Lt. J. C. BOOTHBY, Lt. J. K. L. ROBERTS, Lt. H. G. FOWLER

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
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the lee of some sand-hills. The ground was admirably adapted for training, and as there was nothing else to do and nowhere to go, an instructive and interesting time was spent there.

Battalion training was carried out at Aboukir, and we went into camp on ground placed at our disposal through the courtesy of the R.A.F., whose Headquarters are close to the village. The H.Q. and the T.Y. Squadron did everything they could to make our stay comfortable, placing all their institutes at the disposal of the men. The two messes looked after the officers; half of us enjoyed the hospitality of the H.Q. Mess and half that of the 56th Squadron. Our training was rendered additionally interesting by the co-operation of the Flying Corps on all our field days, and all ranks were given an opportunity of seeing 'planes at work and were thus able to realise the importance to the infantry of this branch of the Service. Many of the officers were taken up for flights and were able to watch the working of the troops from the air and learnt valuable lessons from the experience. At the end of the training a comprehensive Battalion field firing exercise was carried out in which all the various arms with which the infantry are armed were brought into play, rifles, Vickers guns, Lewis guns, rifle grenades, bombs and trench mortars, the aircraft co-operating with live bombs. An interesting and instructive morning was marred by a sad accident to one of the 'planes which resulted in the death of a gallant pilot of the 56th Squadron, Flying Officer A. Dean. He had just dropped his bomb and was turning to climb again when his machine nose-dived and fell into the sea. There was no possible chance of saving him even if he had survived his fall, and as a fact his body was not recovered for some days. A memorial service was held in Aboukir at which many officers of the Battalion attended and to which we sent the band and drums to render the last honours to the deceased.

Shortly after our return to Alexandria the Battalion was once again called out in aid of the civil power, very serious rioting having started in the town. It is generally considered that the object of the rioters was not anti-British, but anti-European. At any rate, many Europeans were killed and

much incendiarism and looting took place, but the soldiers were never seriously attacked. Only in one case did a patrol get into difficulties, and the effective way in which the aggressors were shot and bayoneted had a salutary effect on the natives generally.

Lieut.-Col. Taylor was placed in command of the town, various important centres were occupied, and the rioters dealt with by patrols in lorries and by the armoured cars. Everybody worked with a will and the troops showed wonderful forbearance, determination, and devotion to duty in very trying circumstances and we were able to get the better of the rioters in a comparatively short time. Letters of thanks for what the Battalion did were received from all sections of the European community, including the British Chamber of Commerce, the Greek Community, etc., and we were additionally pleased to receive congratulations from the higher commands in Egypt. The Commander-in-Chief came down to Alexandria and personally expressed his appreciation of the way in which the officers had handled the situation and the exemplary behaviour of all officers and men.

In the sport line we have not had quite such a successful year as last, but the Regimental Football Team duly won all cups played for in the season 1920, the finals of which had not been played before last year's Annual was published. These cups were the Sultan's Cup, the Robert Hughes Cup, the Alexandria League Cup and the E.E.F. Cup. Of these we have only been able to retain the two latter, though we reached the final in the two other cups. We had hard luck, too, in not winning them as we were not able to put our best teams in the field for the finals.

A Champion Cup was instituted for the first time for competition between all the British regiments in Egypt, marks being allotted to the best unit in each different form of sport. In this we came out second to the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Cricket was not included for some reason or other and that handicapped us, for we certainly had the best team in the Command. We won the football and the hockey, and were second in the sports, which by the way we should have won, for the first place went to the King's Regiment, whose chief

and only performer did not belong to the regiment, but was attached from another unit.

In boxing, tug-of-war and cross-country running we did no good, all these events being won by the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who thereby gained the cup. We thought it a little unfair that boxing should count twice as much as football, but still the Munsters are old friends and we do not grudge them their victory.

There have not been many changes in the Battalion, but the officers we have lost we can ill spare. Col. Dumbell left to join the first Battalion after twenty years abroad, and Capt. Dobbie, our popular Adjutant, went off to grow strawberries in British Columbia. The Service can ill-spare the services of the latter, and we in the Battalion will miss him more than we can say. He made an ideal Adjutant, was well up in his work, hard-working, conscientious, courteous and popular with all ranks. The efficiency and smartness of the Battalion and our corps of drummers is largely due to his unsparing efforts. He must have had some satisfaction in seeing the successful result of his labours. May he be successful in his new venture and have a bumper crop of whatever he tries to grow.

MUSKETRY MEETING, ABBASSIA, CAIRO. OCTOBER, 1920.

The Egyptian Command Rifle Meeting was held on the Abbassia Ranges, Cairo, from October 25th-30th, 1920. We sent in teams for every event, and although we only brought back one prize—that for the Inter-Section-Troops Light Gun Competition—considering the difficulties we experienced in getting men off duties, etc., for practice, a very high standard was reached by this team.

Previous to the Command Meeting, an eliminating meeting was held by the 10th Division to find the best two teams in the Inter-Section-Troop Light Gun Competition, on the Abbassia Ranges. The 11th Hussars and ourselves came out top, qualifying for the Command Meeting.

In the best shot in the E.E.F. Competition all our seven competitors reached the last stage, qualifying them to shoot off the final elementary practices.

Lce.-Corpl. Kreckler, H.Q. Company made the best score at the snap-shooting practice, obtaining a possible, a highly creditable performance.

Lce.-Corpl. Kreckler finished fifth on the list, and but for a low score at one practice would have won it.

We were knocked out in the first round in the Platoon Lewis-Gun Competition, making a worse score than we had ever made during practice; we were unfortunate enough to get a bad piece of ground to fire from. However, we made up for everything in the Inter-Section-Troop Light-Gun Competition, which we won with a Section Team from 16 Platoon, D Company, led by Corpl. Sharpe.

The team consisted of one Lewis gunner and four riflemen. Iron plates representing the opposing team had to be knocked down; we beat the 11th Hussars in the first round by a narrow margin, then successfully competed with the 2nd Battalion the Somerset Light Infantry.

The final was between our old rivals, the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, and ourselves.

By mutual arrangement we had three "runs" up the range, winning the first and losing the second, the third round seemed lost also as our gun jammed, but Pte. Rogers got his gun into working order in a few seconds, and with a few bursts of well-directed fire, knocked out the enemy, thus snatching the cup from the very hands of our opponents.

Pte. Rogers' firing was first class, and the congratulations he received from many General Officers must have pleased him.

In the Revolver Individual Competition, Lieut. Fowler was third, being seven points behind the winner.

The Regiment also did quite well in the Rifle and Revolver Pool Shoots, three out of four of the latter pools going to us.

We hope to do even better this year; we have the material, and with time and opportunity for practice should do well.

ALMA DAY, 1920.

On Alma Day a successful Athletic Meeting was held at Mustapha, followed in the evening by a torch-lighted tattoo admirably arranged by Capt. G. S. Dobbie, M.C.

The winners of the various events in the sports were :—

Relay Race	D Company.
Half-Mile Marching Order	Lce.-Corpl. Rogerson.
High Jump	Pte. Stevenson.
100 Yards	Sergt. Wright.
Long Jump	Pte. Stevenson.
Duck & Chicken Race .	Mrs. Noble.
Tilting the Bucket . .	H.Q. Company.
220 Yards	Sergt. Wright.
Alexandria Derby . .	A Company.
Mile Open	Pte. Young, Tank Corps.
Boys' Race	George Hinks.
Girls' Race	Marjorie Sexton.
440 Yards	Lce.-Corpl. Ward.
W.O.'s & Sergeants' Race	C.Q.M.S. Bastow.
Half-Mile	Pte. Freestone.
Egg & Spoon Race . .	Mrs. Adams.
Officers' Race	Lieut.-Col. R. J. F. Taylor, C.B.E.
Band Race	Pte. Howard.

E.E.F. COMMAND ATHLETIC SPORTS MEETING, 1921.

For the purpose of sports, Egypt and Palestine were divided up into five groups, the winners of each group meeting each other in the finals.

The Alexandria Group held its Athletic Sports Meeting in January, and with the exception of the 1- and 3-miles flat races, all events were won by us. Our only opponents were the 1st Brigade, R.G.A., Departmental Cooks and British Officers from the 46th Punjabis and the 56th Rifles.

The final meeting was held at Cairo in March, when we just failed to win a cup for the Champion Unit by one point, scoring eight points to nine scored by the 2nd Battalion the King's Liverpool Regiment. Lieut. Nevitt won five points for us, winning the 440 yards, 220 yards and being second in the 100 yards. Considering the poor state of the track, his times were remarkably good.

Boy Jones, H.Q. Company, won the Boys' 220 yards Race easily, and Lieut. Fowler was second in the 120 yards Hurdles. We were unfortunate in not gaining the one extra point re-

quired for the Championship, third places being gained by Lieut. Fowler in the High Jump, Pte. Joyce, H.Q. Company, in putting the shot, and by Pte. Stevenson, D Company, in the Long Jump. In all these only half an inch separated second from third place; the gaining of any one would have given us an extra point.

The final of the cross-country was held at Ludd, in Palestine, over a course of 5 miles of very hilly and sandy country. Five teams entered, the first ten home in each team to count. The 2nd Battalion the Munster Fusiliers won, all this team coming in with the first twenty-two home. The first man home completed the course in just over thirty-one minutes, which time was bettered by a minute by the first Indian competitor home. We finished fourth, our team with one or two exceptions being insufficiently trained. Pte. Watson H.Q. Company, was our first man home, finishing sixth.

When we get to Ismailia we hope to have plenty of opportunities for training for all branches of sport and feel sure that we shall do well, as everybody is very keen and we have some good material.

HOCKEY, 1920-21.

The great handicap when hockey was taken up in November was the ground, which had greatly deteriorated. This was owing to the fact that sand instead of "Tina" had been used in its preparation.

As the men are essentially "soccer" players, it was at first difficult to interest them in the game, but it was gratifying to notice their keenness towards the close of the season. Perhaps next season Companies will be able to discover talent among their men.

We started the season with a friendly match against the Alexandria Sporting Club, whom we defeated by three goals to one.

Very few teams were run in Alexandria, so we had to be content with Inter-Battalion matches for the early part of the season. In the Alexandria Hockey League last year, it will be remembered that we managed to triumph over the 46th Punjabis after a very hard struggle indeed. This year they turned the table, but only after a Homeric struggle.

In the E.E.F. Hockey Challenge Cup we routed all opponents and secured the cup. The few people who play for

the Battalion play well, but when a regular player drops out through illness or duty, it is most difficult to fill his place. We hope for worthier efforts next season.

The E.E.F. Challenge Cup.

Alexandria only entered two teams for the above cup, the Sherwood Foresters and the R.A.O.C.

The R.A.O.C. this year were not strong, in fact very weak, so we routed them by nine goals to nil. This brought us against the winners of the Cairo Group, the Middlesex Regiment. The game was played on the Alexandria Club ground and resulted in a win for us by seven goals to two.

The game was extraordinarily fast and it was due to the wonderful combination of the forwards, helped by the feeding of the defence, that we managed to score so many goals.

In the final we met the 11th Hussars at Cairo. The 11th scored a goal in the first five minutes, and looked like increasing their lead several times, but we managed to settle down to the game about ten minutes from half-time and scored five goals in rapid succession.

In the second half the 11th gave a poor display and we ran out winners by seven goals to one.

Alexandria Hockey League.

For the above league we entered two teams. The Sporting Club headed the table for a long time, but fell a victim to our Left-half Battalion and the 46th Punjabis Left-half. It was a close thing right up to the end of the season, but the 46th Punjabis defeated us by the odd goal in each game.

RESULTS.

Foresters Left-half Battalion.

v. R.A.O.C.	.	.	.	.	.	7—0	and	7—0
v. 56th Rifles	.	.	.	.	.	9—1	„	4—0
v. 56th Squadron	.	.	.	.	.	6—2	„	5—0
v. Alexandria District	.	.	.	.	.	4—0	„	4—1
v. Foresters, Right	.	.	.	.	.	3—0	„	6—0
v. Aircraft Depot	.	.	.	.	.	4—1	„	1—1
v. 46th Punjabis, Right	.	.	.	.	.	4—0	„	4—0
v. Sporting Club	.	.	.	.	.	2—1	„	2—1
v. 46th Punjabis, Left	.	.	.	.	.	1—2	„	1—2

Foresters Right-half Battalion.

v. R.A.O.C.		0—0	and	5—0
v. 56th Rifles		2—1	„	2—3
v. 56th Squadron		4—0	„	3—1
v. Alexandria District		1—0	„	2—2
v. Foresters, Left		0—3	„	0—6
v. Aircraft Depot		2—3	„	2—3
v. 46th Punjabis, Right		1—2	„	1—2
v. Sporting Club		3—5	„	2—2
v. 46th Punjabis, Left		0—1	„	0—5

Battalion Shield.

This was more or less a walk over for D Company, as they had eight of the Regimental side playing for them.

A Company, however, put up a good fight in the final and were only beaten by three goals to one.

Regimental Team.

Goal : Sergt. Piper.

Backs : Lieut. Nevitt and C.Q.M.S. Howarth.

Half-backs : Sergt. White, Lieut. Jacques and Pte. Baker.

Forwards : Lieut. Coxon, Lieut. Walker, Pte. Walker, Pte.

King and Pte. Benton.

D Company Team. (Winning Company.)

Goal : Pte. Hollins.

Backs : Lieut. Nevitt and Pte. Church.

Half-backs : Sergt. White, Lieut. Jacques and Sergt. Crowder.

Forwards : Pte. Walker, Lieut. Coxon, Lieut. Walker, Pte.

King and Pte Benton.

FOOTBALL, 1920-21.

If there is one game which every one plays in the Regiment it is Association football. It was due to the all-round keenness shown last year that the Regimental Team managed to secure four out of the five trophies that we competed for.

Great deeds were expected in the 1920-21 season, but though we managed to work our way to all the final rounds we only

managed to retain the Alexandria League and the E.E.F. Challenge Cup. It was a great disappointment, though perhaps it may help us to worthier efforts in the ensuing season.

We started the season with five or six friendly games, which we won quite easily, though among them we had to face strong teams from the Government Officials and the Albion Rovers, whom we defeated 1—0 and 4—0 respectively.

Training was taken up seriously, especially when we were informed that the Battalion had to split its strength, in other words, to enter two teams for the Alexandria Football League as our Regimental Team had walked away with the trophy last year. Long runs and a special course of physical training helped to make the team so fit that we won all our friendly and practice games, in fact so easily did we overpower every opposing team that over-confidence crept in, and this might be the reason for our later failures.

The E.E.F. Challenge Cup.

In the first round we defeated the R.A.O.C., Alexandria, fairly easily by three goals to nil after a good game. We walked over the R.G.A. in the second round to the tune of eight goals to nil, and in the third round ran up thirteen goals to nil against the R.A.M.C., Kantara. This brought us to the semi-final, which was played at the Alexandria Sporting Club against the Middlesex Regiment. After a terrific struggle we defeated the Middlesex one to nil. In this game our team played badly, our forwards especially, by refusing to make use of the wonderful openings made for them by our defence. Lieut. Nevitt saved our side from defeat several times by his skilful tackling and clearing.

In the final round we met the 16th Brigade, R.F.A., and won easily by six goals to nil.

Lady Congreve presented the Cup and Medals after the game, which was played at Cairo.

The Sultan's Cup.

The R.A.F. Docks met us in the first round and were defeated by two goals to nil. In the second round we routed

the Greek Football Club by thirteen goals to nil. We won the third and fourth and fifth rounds against the Union Recreation Club (2—1), Government Officials (4—0) and the 1st H.L.I. (4—0) respectively.

In the final we met our great opponents, the Cairo International Sports Club XI. This was a magnificent game, played in Cairo. We had to admit defeat by two goals to nil, but undoubtedly the better side won on the day.

The Robert Hughes Cup.

Only four teams entered for this cup.

In the first round we met the R.A.F. from Aboukir, when we managed to defeat them by five goals to nil. In the final we opposed the Middlesex Regiment. We gave a dreadful display in this game and deserved to lose.

The Middlesex Regiment made use of all their opportunities, and ran out winners by three goals to two.

Alexandria District League.

It would be impossible to describe each match in the league as there were so many. In fact, it was never finished, though as our A Team happened to have a very big lead in points the cup was handed over to the Regiment.

A Team Results.

v. R.A.F. Docks	. 11—0	v. Albion Rovers	. 7—3
v. Greek Football Club	. 9—1	v. R.A.O.C.	. 6—0
v. Alexandria Sporting Club	. 1—0	v. Greek Football Club	. 6—0
v. B Team	. 1—1	v. Government Officials	. 3—1
v. R.A.F., Aboukir	. 1—0	v. Aircraft Depot	. 3—0
v. 56th Squadron	. 6—0	v. R.A.O.C.	. 2—1
v. Aircraft Depot	. 8—0	v. 56th Squadron	. 3—0
v. Asmoneens	. 10—0		

B Team Results.

<i>v.</i> R.A.O.C.		1—0
<i>v.</i> Aircraft Depot		6—0 and 2—2
<i>v.</i> Alexandria Sporting Club		1—0
<i>v.</i> Greek Football Club		9—1
<i>v.</i> R.A.F. Docks		4—0 and 4—0
<i>v.</i> 56th Squadron		4—0 „ 1—0
<i>v.</i> Government Officials		0—0 „ 2—0
<i>v.</i> A Team		1—1
<i>v.</i> Asmoneens		11—1
<i>v.</i> Albion Rovers		0—3

Competition among Companies for the Battalion Shield was keen. A Company defeated B after a hard struggle, then drew a bye in the second round. D knocked C out by two goals to nil.

In the second round D defeated H.Q. by three goals to one and thus qualified to meet A in the final.

Both teams were at full strength, though perhaps D was expecting to win. A led for quite a long time in the first half by one goal, in fact, D equalised just as the half-time whistle blew. In the second half, however, A fell to pieces and were defeated by five goals to one.

Regimental Team.

Goal : Pte. Skevington.

Backs : Lieut. Nevitt and Pte. Parkes.

Half-backs : Pte. Laxon, Corpl. Sheffield and Lieut. Jacques.

Forwards : Pte. Walker, M.M., Pte. Lockwood, Lieut.

Walker, Sergt. Jennings and Pte. Stevenson.

A Team.

Goal : Pte. Skevington.

Backs : Lieut. Nevitt and Pte. Vipond, M.M.

Half-backs : Pte. Laxon, Corpl. Sheffield and Lieut. Jacques.

Forwards : Pte. Walker, M.M., Pte. Lockwood, Lieut.

Walker, Sergt. Jennings and Pte. Stevenson.

B Team.

Goal : Pte. Bowling.

Backs : Bandsman Spencer and Pte. Parkes.

Half-backs : Pte. Smith, Bandsman Saxby and Lce.-Corpl. Hollins.

Forwards : Pte. Johnson, Pte. Taylor, Pte. Joyce, Pte. Brown and Bandsman Howard.

D Company Team (Shield Winners).

Goal : Pte. Skevington.

Backs : Lieut. Nevitt and Pte. Church.

Half-backs : Sergt. Crowder, Lieut. Jacques and Pte. Daykin.

Forwards : Pte. Walker, M.M., Pte. Lockwood, Lieut. Walker, Pte. Brown and Pte. Stevenson.

DOINGS OF THE CRICKET TEAM.

The Battalion Team had a most successful season which ended on September 25th, 1920, when they beat a strong side from Kantara. The record for the season was of the 24 matches played 16 were won, 5 lost and 3 drawn.

The team toured to Kantara and Port Said, but unfortunately two of the principal players, Capt. Dobbie and Lieut. Walker, could not go, and the team lost all three matches of the week. During the season five matches were played against the Alexandria Cricket Club, the Battalion winning the rubber match. The Club were most kind in allowing us to use their ground on many occasions, our own being most indifferent. They were the most sporting side, and the five matches played against them thoroughly enjoyed. The averages came out very well, Lieut. N. McD. Walker having an average of 53·81 for 18 innings, Lieut. R. O. Nevitt and Lieut. L. Jacques, M.C., following with averages of 32·75 and 27·86. Among the bowlers, Pte. Bowler obtained 93 wickets during the season at the rate of 9·51 runs per wicket. Good work was also done by Lieut. Walker and Capt. Dobbie, who obtained 45 and 39 wickets respectively at the cost of 13·06 and 14·61 runs.

In my opinion the side all round was one of the best Battalion Teams to be found anywhere; in Capt. G. S.

Dobbie, M.C., who captained, we had a fine all-round cricketer, a very good bowler and hard-hitting bat. Lieuts. Walker and Jacques were both good bats, very good fields, and Walker a particularly good bowler. These three were well backed up by Lieuts. R. O. Nevitt, N. S. Temple and E. A. Coxon, who played a number of good innings.

A word of praise must be given to Pte. Bowler for his untiring energy; he would bowl all through a really hot day and peg away just as well at the finish as when he started. Unfortunately he took his discharge after two years' service and the Battalion lost a good all-round member.

The team for 1920 was Major H. F. Watson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Capt. G. S. Dobbie, M.C., Capt. R. R. Shawcross, Lieut. N. A. McD. Walker, Lieut. N. S. Temple, M.C., Lieut. L. Jacques, M.C., Lieut. R. O. Nevitt, Lieut. E. A. Coxon, Lieut. H. G. Fowler, Sergt. Jennings and Pte. Bowler.

The season for 1921 opened on May 12th on the return from Battalion training at Aboukir. Major H. F. Watson, C.M.G., D.S.O., was elected captain with Lieut. N. S. Temple, M.C., as secretary. The team has felt the loss severely of Capt. G. S. Dobbie, M.C., who has just gone to Canada, of Lieut. L. Jacques, M.C., who has been in England all the summer, and Pte. Bowler, time expired. Several officers have been away on leave, and a practically new team has had to be found.

Great keenness has been shown, some young players have taken their places, who with a little more experience will prove very valuable additions to the team. The fielding has been very good.

This year colours, in the form of a blue blazer with the Battalion crest on it, have been presented to N.C.O.'s and men who have been selected for permanent places in the team; Sergt. Jennings, Corpl. Sheffield, a most useful bat, and Bandsman Baker, a useful fast bowler and a hard-hitting bat, have so far received theirs. Pte. Stewart and Bandsman Marks are in the running also. Lce.-Corpl. Tomlinson should improve, but Pte. Skevington who showed much promise last season has been quite out of form, though his fielding has always been good. Lieut. Walker is the mainstay of the side, and has been well supported by Lieuts. N. S. Temple,

M.C., R. O. Nevitt and E. A. Coxon, the two last named have just gone on leave and are lost to the Battalion for the rest of the season. On the whole the season has been successful, though the programme is not quite so ambitious as last year; up to date 19 matches have been played, 13 won, 2 lost, 4 drawn. Last year the Company Challenge Shield was won by D Company, this year the final is between B and D Companies and should prove a very equal match. The Cricket Committee this season decided to exclude the Battalion Cricket Team from playing for their companies in the Challenge Shield, in order to make greater competition for places in the Company teams and to encourage young players. It has proved very successful, as great keenness has been shown all round and all the matches up to date most keenly contested.

Regimental Cricket Team for 1921.

Major H. F. Watson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut. N. S. Temple, M.C., Lieut. N. A. McD. Walker, Lieut. R. O. Nevitt, Lieut. E. A. Coxon, Lieut. R. E. H. Stott, Sergt. W. Jennings, Corpl. W. Sheffield, Pte. C. A. Baker, Pte. T. G. Steward, Pte. G. Marks.

SWIMMING.

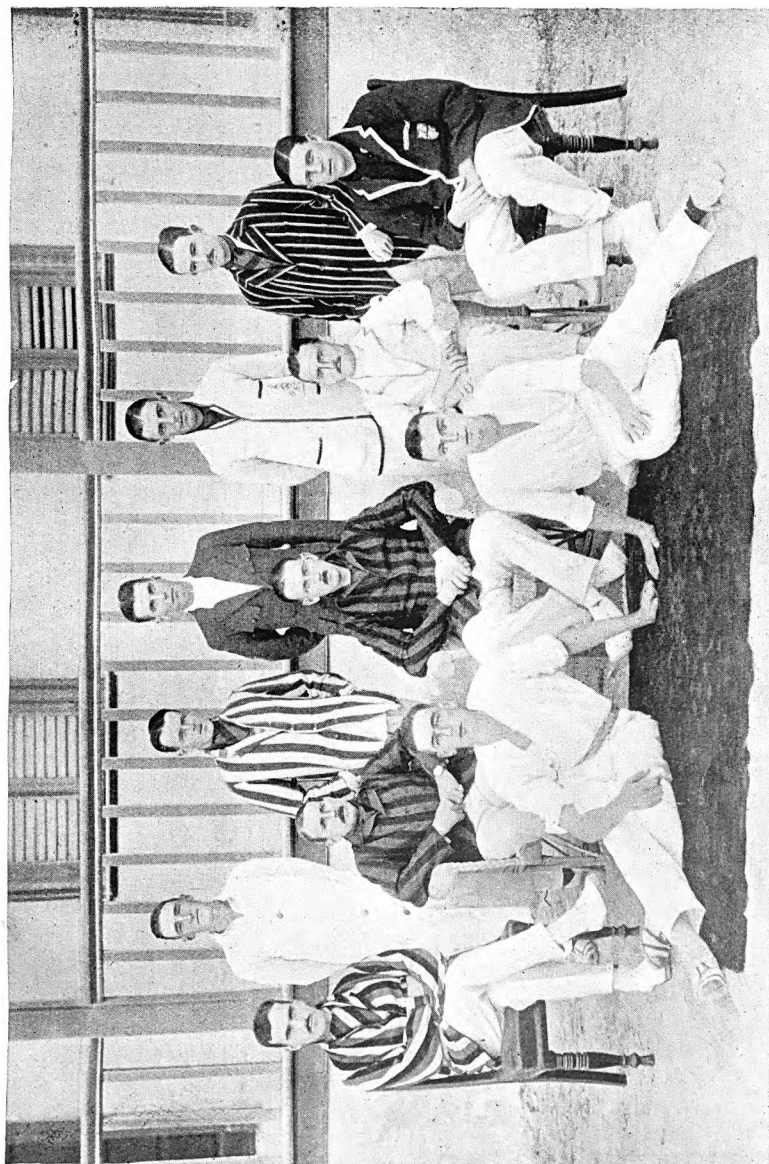
During the past year we have been greatly handicapped in our efforts, as we have no suitable place for swimming races and water polo. These can only take place in the harbour about 7 miles from barracks, and as the sea is so close to the camp a lot of inducement is required to get men down to the harbour to have a swim.

However, the Alexandria Swimming Club have been very kind to us, allowing us the use of their bath in the harbour and sailing us out there in addition.

In June last we entered a competition held by A Group Egyptian Sports Control Board to select the group representatives for the Command Championships.

We were unfortunately defeated by the combined team of R.A.M.C. who represented the Group in the finals.

The results of this competition were as under :—

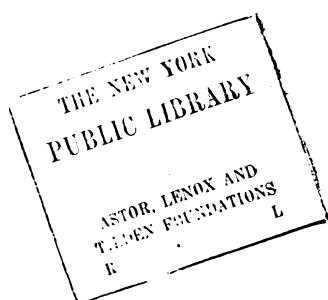


CRICKET TEAM 2ND BATTALION

Back Row—L.-Cpl. LOMAS, 2nd Lt. E. A. COXON, Lt. J. St. J. BALGUY, Lt. H. G. FOWLER, Lt. N. S. TEMPLE, M.C.
Seated—Lt. L. JACQUES, M.C., Maj. H. F. WATSON, C.M.G., D.S.O., Capt. G. S. DOBBIE, M.C., Lt. N. A. MCD. WALKER, Lt. R. O. NEVITT

Front Row—Pte. SKEVINGTON, Pte. BOWLER

Facing page 40



90 Yards Back Stroke : 1st Lce.-Corpl. Wallace, 3rd Sergt. Cumberland. 60 Yards Dash : 2nd. Pte Brennan. 420 Yards : 1st Pte. Birch, 2nd Pte. Elliott. 180 Yards : 1st Lieut. Cavendish, 3rd Pte. Robinson. 880 Yards : 2nd Lce.-Corpl. Totham, 3rd Pte. Carline. Diving : 2nd Pte. Robinson, 3rd Sergt. Wright.

In the Relay Race, after leading by a length almost right through the race, we were defeated by the R.A.M.C. by "a touch."

The Water Polo Match could have been much better, and the spectators were somewhat surprised when the R.A.M.C. defeated us by two goals to nil.

It is thus easily seen that although we seemed to have carried all before us we were defeated on points by the R.A.M.C., chiefly owing to the fact that Pte. Birch, who won the 420 yards with 50 yards to spare, was disqualified for not having actually touched at one end.

Some of our best swimmers are away in Cyprus, notably C.Q.M.S. Bastow, and this has handicapped us. The club is going strong and will be able to give a better account of itself in the future.

POLO.

I don't think anything was written about polo for the last Annual. When we first arrived in this country we started to try and get as many polo ponies as possible, and after a bit of coping and help from units, etc., who were being demobilised, we managed to have all our chargers polo ponies, that was about twelve.

The regular players were Milward, Douglas, Harvey, Gamble, Ebsworth and Callow. We put in a Regimental team for all the Alexandria tournaments. In the two big open tournaments we had twelve teams, viz. 11th Hussars, 16th Lancers, Queen's Bays, Gezira, Magpies, R.A.S.C., 10th Division, Hodson's Horse (two teams), R.H.A., Alexandria and ourselves.

We had two beginners, so did not get through, but had a very good game in the Handicap Tournament and only just got beaten by Hodson's Horse, A Team, who eventually won.

Milward took an Alexandria team up to Cairo for the Open Tournament and they only just got beaten by the 20th Hussars after a very close game. He also played for the Cheltenham team in the Public School Tournament, which they won, beating Eton in the final.

This year we ran an Open Tournament and an American one concurrently. The following teams played: 5th Dragoon Guards, R.A.S.C., Gezira, Scots' Greys, Alexandria and the 11th Hussars. We could not raise a Regimental side owing to the Tournament taking place in the same season.

Polo has been going strong the whole summer, and the following have been playing: Milward, Douglas, Ebsworth and Cavendish. Boothby and Coxon are just beginning to knock a ball about, but the amount of fellows going on leave and courses upset everything. In spite of being played by all sorts of people our ponies have stuck it wonderfully, but are very carefully looked after. We have another Tournament just starting, for which the following teams have entered: Alexandria A team, for which Milward and Cavendish are playing, Alexandria B team, Gezira, R.A.S.C., The Etcetras, 10th Division and Ludd.

It has been a great opportunity for fellows to start, as they get polo for nothing as we play Government ponies, the only expense being sticks. I don't suppose they will ever get a chance again like this. We hope to get more players when we get to Ismailia and get a few more Tournaments going there.

EDUCATION.

During the past year great attention has been devoted to Education, and our efforts have been rewarded with success.

At present we have more than half of the Battalion in possession of Educational Certificates.

The actual figures to date are:—

First Class Certificates	.	.	.	.	38
Second „	„	.	.	.	213
Third „	„	.	.	.	170

This large increase is mainly due to the zeal and hard work of Lieuts. Dean and Robinson and the co-operation of

Sergt.-Instructor Hammond, who although transferred to the Establishment of the Army Educational Corps, still remains permanently attached to the Battalion for duty.

Previous to the 1st July examinations were held in the Battalion School, and as it was a last opportunity under the old syllabus many attempted the papers and a considerable number passed.

Since that date we have all been hard at work preparing for the various certificate examinations to be held on the new syllabus.

At first we were very dubious about Algebra and Geometry, but have now been persuaded that it isn't so difficult as was anticipated at first.

The voluntary classes in French, Arabic and Book-keeping have been well attended, a proof that the inclusion of Education as a specific section of Army Training has not caused our interest to lessen.

In our next issue we are hoping that we shall be able to report a better record than we have had this time.

DRAFTS.

Drafts from the 1st Battalion at Blackdown joined the Battalion as under :—

150 Other Ranks, November 22nd, 1920.

45 Other Ranks, December 2nd, 1920.

Major J. H. Matthias, O.B.E., and 41 Other Ranks on January 3rd, 1921.

A draft of 222 Other Ranks was dispatched to the 1st Battalion on January 7th and one of 17 Other Ranks on January 31st, for discharge.

INSPECTION.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. N. Congreve, V.C., K.C.B., M.V.O., G.O.C.-in-C., E.E.F., inspected the Battalion on June 29th. At this inspection the G.O.C.-in-C. addressed the Battalion as follows :—

“ Officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and Men of the Sherwood Foresters. I have just come down to pay you a short visit and also to state how pleased I am with your turn out this

morning. My visit here to-day is chiefly to congratulate all ranks on how well everyone behaved themselves in the recent disturbances and riots in Alexandria at a very critical moment, and I feel certain that if ever it did happen again you would perform your duties as you did in the last disturbances."

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDAL.

C.Q.M.S. S. J. Howarth has been awarded the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct.

CHANGE. PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Officers: Lieut.-Col. C. H. Dumbell, D.S.O., has left us to join the 1st Battalion. Temp. Capt. M. M. Harvey, D.S.O., M.C., has gone to U.K. for demobilisation. Capt. G. S. Dobbie, M.C., has gone to British Columbia on leave, pending retirement. Lieut. R. O. Nevitt has been appointed Adjutant in the place of Capt. G. S. Dobbie, M.C. Lieut. R. V. C. Cavendish, M.C., has joined the Battalion on vacating the appointment of A.D.C. to Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. R. Marshall, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, India. Capt. and Br.-Major I. G. Macbean, M.C., has joined from the 1st Battalion. Lieut. E. W. French, M.C., Army Educational Corps, has been posted to the Battalion as Educational Instructor. Major G. L. H. Manby has temporarily taken over the duties of G.S.O.I. 10th Division, Cairo. Major and Bt.-Lieut.-Col. H. M. Milward, D.S.O., has taken over the duties of Second-in-Command in the place of Major G. L. H. Manby.

W.O.'S AND N.C.O.'S.

Promotions: To Col.-Sergt., Daykin and Tingle. To Sergt., Harber. To Corpl., Haywood.

Appointments: Band-Sergt., Crump. Shoemaker-Sergt., Harber. Acting-Sergt., Bennett. Acting-Corpl., Brown, Clarke, Bradley, Tilcock, Kreckler, Winkle and Pickering.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATES, ETC.

Rifle and Bayonet: Act.-Sergt. Webb (Distinguished), Lce.-Sergts. White, Hunt, Corpls. Sharpe, Bailey, Witton.

Lewis Gun and Revolver : Sergt. Dexter, Act.-Sergt. Webb, Lce.-Sergt. Voce, Corpl. Hatton, Lce.-Corpls. Camden, Church, Louth, Thomas, Kitchen, Rockly, Sutton, Bellamy.

Vickers Gun : Sergts. Wright, Young, Lce.-Sergt. White, Corpls. Chambers, Bradley, Tong, Lce.-Corpls. Murfin, Underwood, Wallis, Playfoot, Totham.

Physical Training : Sergt. A. Wright obtained a 2nd class at Aldershot.

Signalling : Lce.-Corpls. Good and Haywood obtained Assistant Signalling Instructor's Certificates.

First-Class Certificates of Education : C.S.M. Laws, M.M., Sergts. Berrall, Hunt, Young, Pickering, Hammond, Band-Sergt. Crump, Lce.-Sergt. Allen, Corpls. Walker, Palmer, Tempest, Lce.-Corpls. Jackson, Cooling, Greenberry, Angrave, Hilditch, Bandsman Moylan, Ptes. Hare, Beeston, Ball, Moulton, Cassidy, Marks, Allcock, Dr. E. Jones and A. Jones. Boys Paton, Jenks, Lyon, Howitt, MacDonald and Haddon.

Group I : R.S.M. Hobbs, R.Q.M.S. Noble, Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) Dady, D.C.M., C.S.M. Poole, Bandsman Spencer, Thurlby and Pte. Hewer.

DEATHS.

Pte. J. Ellis at Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin, from the results of an accident whilst bathing, 6/9/21.

Pte. F. Griffin at 24th Stationary Hospital, Kantara, from typhoid fever, 18/11/20.

Pte. E. Bignall at Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin, from acute pneumonia, 22/11/20.

Pte. S. Holton at Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin, from P.U.O., 15/6/21.

Pte. G. Lings at Palestine General Hospital, Ludd, from burns, 18/6/21.

Pte. G. W. Eyre at Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin, from P.U.O., 9/8/21.

REPORT ON THE NOVICES' BOXING COMPETITION, HELD AT MUSTAPHA ON THE 18TH AUGUST, 1921.

This, being our second Boxing Tournament since our arrival in Egypt, proved very successful, and we are hoping to hold

them monthly now. We have the services of C.S.M.I. Squires, A.G.S., who was a great help to us in our last Competition.

We are in possession of some very good promising youngsters, and a little bit of training should show some good results under the tuition of the instructor.

The boxing ring was beautifully decorated, and the whole evening was thoroughly carried out before a very good audience, numbering about 350. The whole Tournament being in the hands of Major Dinwiddy, A.G.S., who refereed in a very capable and sportsmanlike manner.

Herewith the results of the Competition :—

Fly-Weight Semi-Final : Pte. Ogle beat Bandsman Vale on points.

Bantam-Weight First Round : Pte. Holland beat Pte. Burton on points.

Feather-Weight Semi-Final : Pte. Taylor beat Pte. Parkinson on points ; Pte. Saxby beat Pte. Lane on points.

Special Six Two-Minute-Round Contest : Sergt. Harber, 2nd Sherwood Foresters, beat A. B. Barratt, H.M.S. *Centaur*. Harber won very easily by knocking his man out in the second round.

Welter-Weight Semi-Final : Corpl. Gibbs beat Pte. Mitchell on points ; Pte. MacDonald beat Pte. Allcock on points.

Bantam-Weight Semi-Final : Pte. Sissons beat Pte. Smith on points ; Pte. Holland beat Pte. Pemberton on points.

Special Six Two-Minute-Round Contest : Lce.-Corpl. Brown, 2nd Sherwood Foresters, v. A. B. Ward, H.M.S. *Centaur*. This was a splendid fight from beginning to end and ended in a draw.

Light-Weight First Round : Pte. Gregory beat Pte. Williams on points. Pte. Harrison beat Pte. Savage on points. Lce.-Corpl. Booth beat Pte. Allsop, knock-out.

Special Six Two-Minute-Round Contest : Pte. Trout, 2nd Sherwood Foresters, v. A. B. Wheeler, H.M.S. *Centaur*. Trout had the best of the fight from the bell sounding, and his man gave up in the second round.

Light-Weight Semi-Final : Pte. Harrison beat Pte. Gregory on points. Pte. Lunt beat Lce.-Corpl. Booth on points.

Special Six Two-Minute-Round Contest : Pte. Chambers, 2nd Sherwood Foresters v. A. B. Peterick, H.M.S. *Centaur*.

Peterick was far the best man from the start and Chambers gave in to the seaman in the second round.

Fly-Weight Final : Pte. Ogle beat Pte. Glover on points.

Bantam-Weight Final : Pte. Holland beat Pte. Sissons on points.

Feather-Weight Final : Pte. Saxby beat Pte. Taylor on points.

Light-Weight Final : Pte. Harrison beat Pte. Lunt on points.

Welter-Weight Final : Pte. MacDonald beat Corpl. Gibbs, knock-out in the first round.

After the conclusion of the Competition the prizes were presented by Lieut.-Col. H. M. Milward, D.S.O., who in the absence of Lieut.-Col. R. J. F. Taylor, C.B.E., gave a stirring speech, remarking what a splendid evening's sport it had been and how it was carried out in a correct and sportsman-like manner, hoping to hold these Competitions more frequently than we had done.

V

DEPOT NOTES

SINCE compiling a few Depot notes for the 1920 Annual the Depot has now got thoroughly back to its peace footing, but with many changes of organisation.

The depots of the Northern Command are organised as follows : Headquarters, 1 Recruit Company, 1 Cadre Platoon, consisting of 1 Officer, 1 Platoon Sergeant, and 4 Section Commanders who can be of any rank and form the School of Instruction at the Depot.

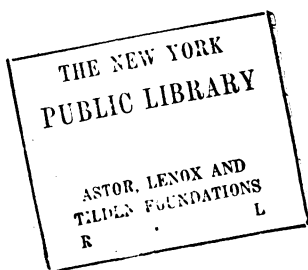
The Recruits' Company is comprised of 1 Commander (Major or Captain), 1 2nd Commander, 1 Subaltern, 1 C.S.M., who also performs the duties of C.S.I.M. and assists the Musketry Officer in the training of Recruits' Musketry, 1 C.Q.M.S. for Interior Economy and Instructors of the different squads, together with an Assistant Instructor and an Old Soldier. Each squad is composed of thirty recruits and is called a Standard Squad. At present these recruits are mostly drawn from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. These counties form a recruiting zone for the Lincolnshire Regiment and ourselves. The squads of thirty are made up alternately for either regiment, and the system works well.

When the thirty recruits have been enlisted they then begin their training under one of the instructors and his two assistants, the same instructor taking his squad practically through every phase of training, including education for 3rd and 2nd Class Certificates. The period of training at the Depot consists of twenty-four weeks. After twenty weeks the recruit fires his Table "A" on Trent Range; he is then handed over to the cadre platoon, who instructs him in Collective Training, the aim being that he will be able to take his place in his platoon as a trained man when he joins his



THE NORTHERN COMMAND INTER-DEPOT 'RECRUITS' CHALLENGE CUP

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Battalion, and thus relieves his Battalion Commander of the incubus of recruits' training.

Headquarters consists of all personnel who are not directly concerned with the Recruits' Company and is commanded by the Administrative Officer, who is also the Depot Imprest Holder, Paymaster of the Depot. This organisation allows of the Company Officer devoting his time to training.

Most of the officers and some of the warrant and N.C.O.'s have paid inter-Depot visits to the Lincoln Depot at Lincoln and the Green Howards at Richmond to ascertain and compare other Depot methods of training. This system is being carried out throughout the Northern Command and is appreciated.

General Sir Ivor Maxse, G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, inspected the Depot on May 17th, 1921, and appeared to leave in a good temper.

On November 11th, 1920, Major C. E. Hudson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Lieut. C. R. Chambers, M.C., D.C.M., and R.S.M. W. Peterkin, M.C., represented the Depot at the funeral of "AN UNKNOWN WARRIOR," held at Westminster Abbey.

The number of recruits posted to the 1st Battalion between July 1st, 1920, and June 30th, 1921, was 214.

Sport plays as big a part as ever in the scheme of training. During the past twelve months many fine bouts have been witnessed in the Recruits' Boxing Tournaments, held quarterly in the Physical Training School, thanks to the physical training staff. Winners get 2 points and losers 1 point, and an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ point if they put up a good fight. These marks go to their respective squads, and at the end of the meeting the squad who has obtained the best percentage of marks holds the Boxing Challenge Cup until the next tournament. Winners of the various weights receive a medal. Great enthusiasm and esprit de squad is shown at these competitions. At every meeting about 80 per cent of the recruits enter for it.

Last year the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command introduced, through the Northern Command Sports Control Board, a football competition open to recruits with only twenty weeks'

service and one of the permanent staff to captain the team. The 1st Reserve Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on disbandment with their surplus funds decided to give a £200 cup to be competed for annually, and a miniature cup for presentation to the winning team this year as a permanent trophy.

For the first year this cup was won by the Depot after the following matches :—

Preliminary Round : Depot v. Depot South Staffs, at Lichfield (9—0).

First Round : Depot v. Depot North Staffs, at Lichfield (7—2).

Second Round : Depot v. Depot York and Lancs, at Pontefract (10—2).

Semi-Final : Depot v. Depot Leicester Regt., at Derby (6—2).

Final (on Messrs. Rowntree's ground at York) : Depot v. Depot Durham Light Infantry (2—1, after extra time).

This victory brings great honour to the Depot and the Regiment, especially when it is understood that the same team did not take part in two matches, as when a player had attained twenty weeks' service he became ineligible to take part in the next round. The success of this Cup was mainly due to the esprit de squad fostered in squad matches.

A photo of the Challenge Cup won by the recruits and the team will be found in this Annual. The cup is a very fine one and well worth keeping.

The Depot football team had a very successful season in 1920-21. They were the runners-up in the Derby Wednesday League, and were beaten in the semi-final of the Wednesday Cup at Burton-on-Trent by Burton E.C. 1—0.

Amongst other interesting features of sport is the annual cricket match between the Officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. This year, on the 20th June, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were the guests of the Officers at lunch, and their wives and families at tea. The match was won by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants after a very exciting finish, as shown by the score sheet below :—



THE CUP WINNERS, RECRUITS' TEAM

DEPOT

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R . L

Depot Notes

51

DEPOT THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS OFFICERS v. WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS.

At Normanton Barracks, Derby, 20th June, 1921.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
C.Q.M.S. Fox, b Capt. Harding 1	run out 38
Sergt. Slade, c Major Harvey, b Capt. Harvey 5	b Major Harvey 22
Sergt. Lilley, c Major Harvey, b Capt. Harvey 0	b Capt. Whicher 11
Sergt. Bradley, c Major God- wen Austen, b Capt. Harding 16	c Capt. Coman, b Capt. Harvey 7
Sergt. George, b Capt. Harvey 0	b Lieut. Dobbs 0
R.S.M. Peterkin, b Major Collin 11	b Lieut. Dobbs 2
R.Q.M.S. Thompson, c Dr. Shearwood, b Capt. Harding 1	c Capt. Harvey, b Lieut. Dobbs 6
R.S.M. Walker, not out 13	c Capt. Coman, b Major Collin 2
R.Q.M.S. Griffin, c Capt. Coman, b Major Collin ... 6	c & b Major Harvey 1
C.S.M. McGowran, b Major Collin 0	not out 1
Sergt.-Dr. Hillier, run out .. 2	st. Major Hudson, b Major Collin 0
Extras 5	Extras 4
60	94

Officers.

Capt. Whicher, c Walker, b Slade 9	c & b Bradley 0
Major Hudson, b George ... 18	run out 16
Major Godwen Austen, c Peterkin, b Lilley 7	c McGowran, b Slade 1
Capt. Coman, b Slade 1	b Bradley 20
Capt. Harvey, lbw. b Lilley .. 4	c & b Lilley 11
Capt. Harding, c & b Lilley .. 6	b Lilley 10
Major Harvey, c Fox, b Lilley 0	b Bradley 13
Major Collin, c Fox, b Bradley 2	c Fox, b Lilley 0
Dr. Shearwood, b Lilley 1	b Bradley 5
Lieut. Dobbs, lbw. b Bradley 0	not out 3
Lieut. Akerman, not out 0	b Peterkin 4
Extras 3	Extras 6
Total 51	Total 89

The Depot cricket team have done well in local fixtures this year. They have played 17 matches, of which they have won 8, lost 8, drawn 1.

Another annual fixture is the cricket match between the Permanent Staff of the Depot and Lt.-Col. H. E. Disbrowe-Wise's Walton Hall XI. This was played at Walton Hall on 13th July, 1921, and was won by the home team on the first innings by 34 runs. We are hoping to have Col. Disbrowe-Wise and his team at Derby in September this year as our guests, when we hope to, in a measure, return some of his past kindnesses.

The following are the scores of the match :—

DEPOT SHERWOOD FORESTERS *v.* LT.-COL. H. E. D.
DISBROWE-WISE'S XI,

At Walton Hall on 13th July, 1921.

Lt.-Col. Disbrowe-Wise's XI.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Oxford, C., c Harvey, b			
Bradley	0	b Bradley	2
Freestone, S., c Harvey, b			
George	11	c Peterkin, b Bradley	6
Thornley, T., c Thompson, b			
Bradley	3	c Lilley, b Slade	9
Earp, J., c Lilley, b Bradley..	0	c Harvey, b Bradley .	29
Wise, H. E. D. D., not out...	50	c Harding, b Whicher	48
Freestone, W., b Bradley....	0	c Harding, b Whicher	13
White, A. M., b Bradley	15	c Harding, b Whicher	2
Earp, F., b Bradley	0	not out	5
Wright, C., b Bradley	13		
Durant, A., c Hudson, b			
Bradley	7	} did not bat	
Freestone, T., c Harvey, b			
Major Hudson			
Extras	8	Extras	7
Total	108	Total	125

Depot Notes

53

Depot Sherwood Foresters XI.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Sergt. Bradley, run out.....	0	not out	18
Sergt. Slade, b Freestone, S...	1	b Freestone, S.	5
C.Q.M.S. Fox, c Freestone, W., b Freestone, S.	12	did not bat	
Major Hudson, c Wise, b Freestone, T.	0	b Thornley	43
Capt. Whicher, c Earp, b Freestone, S.	7	c Oxford, b Freestone, W.	15
Major Harvey, b Freestone, S.	18	c Oxford, b Freestone, W.	2
R.S.M. Peterkin, c Earp, b Thornley, F.....	16	b Freestone, S.	1
Sergt. Lilley, b Freestone, S.	14	c Freestone, T., b Freestone, W.	11
Sergt. George, b Freestone, S.	0	c Freestone, W., b Thornley	20
Capt. Harding, not out	1	not out	1
R.Q.M.S. Thompson, c Earp, b Thornley, F.	0	did not bat	
Extras	5	Extras	8
Total	74	Total	120

During the past football and cricket season the Regiment provided old members to take part in the following International matches :

Pte. Richmond, late 3rd Battalion, now Notts C.C., played in the second Test Match v. Australia.

Pte. Charles Buchan, late 4th Battalion, now captain of the Sunderland F.C. and one of England's best centre-forwards. Played for England v. Scotland and Ireland, 1920-21.

A series of whist drives for the recruits during the winter months were arranged and were well attended by the men. Acting as M.C. during the drive gave one a unique knowledge of how not to play whist. Some men have very crude notions of even the value of the cards. During the drives the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes ran a bar for the sale of tea,

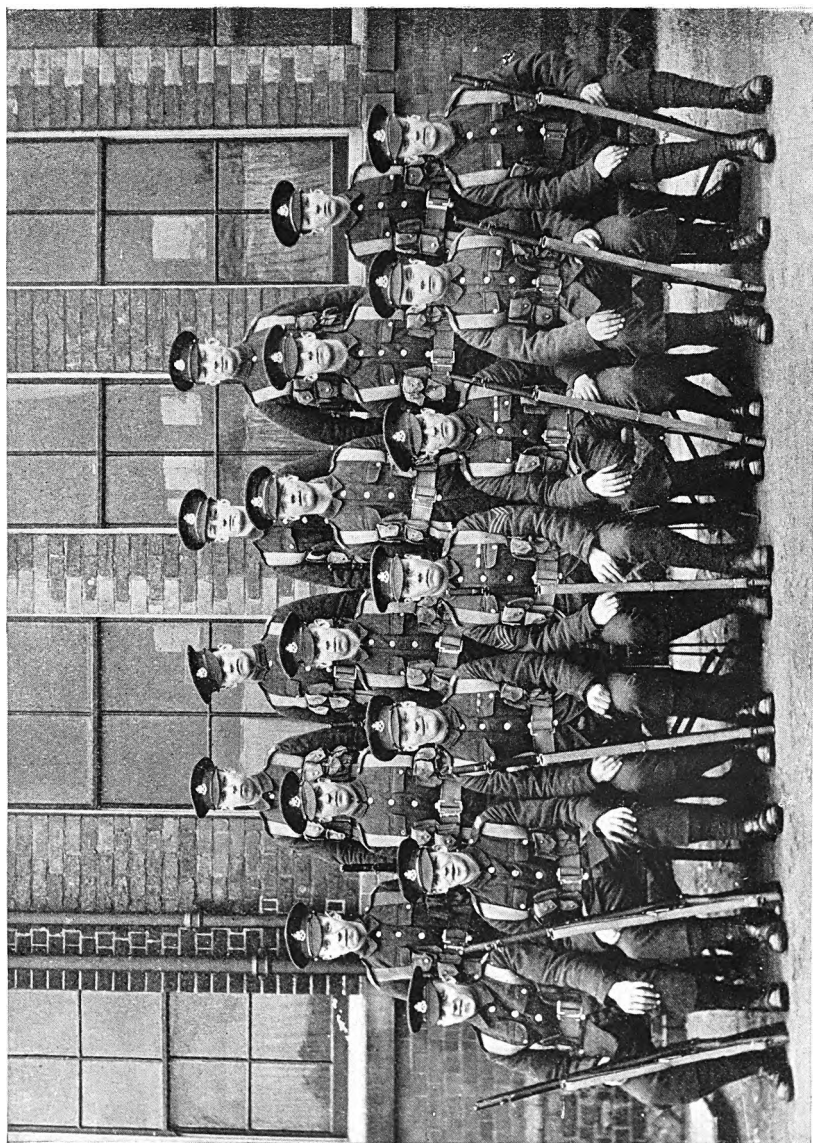
coffee, etc., which, needless to say, was well patronised by the men. At one drive the Adjutant was very much struck with the pile of cakes (to be accurate, there were four fancy cakes and three slices of slab cake) which one man had beside him. He seemed more intent on his refreshments than on the cards.

To turn to a more serious side of affairs. During the recent Coal Strike, when the Army Reserve were called up by Royal Proclamation, once more the mobilising of the Army Reserve fell upon the Depot. Everything was in proper order for them, and on the evening of the 9th April, 1921, ten officers had reported in person by phone and wire. By Tattoo a few of the men who lived in the vicinity had also arrived, and by the night of Tuesday, the 12th, 388 reservists had been taken on the strength of the Depot. They were organised into platoons of thirty strong and formed into companies, under a company commander and subaltern officer. The first two platoons had to be sent out immediately on special duties and remained out some time. On the 14th special orders were received to despatch two companies to join the 1st Battalion, who had by then arrived under canvas at Kensington Gardens. These were despatched by the 10 o'clock train the following day, and a day after the whole of the reservists had gone to join their comrades.

Then came the period when a proportion of the Reservists were permitted to proceed on indefinite leave on account of their being owners of "One Man Businesses," or any other special reason which could be brought forward. All these men had to pass back again through the Depot, hand in all their clothing, equipment, etc., and once more become civilians. They remained on leave until General Demobilisation was ordered, when they were then demobilised by post by the Depot staff.

The Depot once more assumed its normal aspect, and training is now in full swing. Recruits are still coming along in good numbers, and it is expected in the future that standard squads of recruits will be sent direct to the 2nd Battalion in Egypt as well as to the 1st Battalion at home.

Photographs of some of the standard squads of recruits, with their periods of training, which will be found in the Annual, will no doubt be of great interest to all ranks.



No. 9 SQUAD OF RECRUITS

AUGUST 16TH, 1920, TO JANUARY 30TH, 1921

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The Commanding Officer of the Depot is most anxious to make a collection of Regimental badges, buttons and medals for the Depot Mess. There must be many old badges of the 45th and 95th still in existence, and they will be very gratefully received and their history recorded under each. If old members of the Regiment would kindly forward any in their possession, together with a short history of the same, they will be personally acknowledged by the Commanding Officer.

The following postings of officers have taken place during the past year :

To the Depot.

Major J. H. Mathias, O.B.E., from 1st Battalion, 16/8/20.

Major E. N. T. Collin, from 1st Battalion, 25/8/20.

Capt. J. D.'A Whicher, from 1st Battalion, 16/10/20.

Lieut. C. R. Chambers, M.C., D.C.M., from 1st Battalion, 27/10/20.

2nd Lieuts. E. C. Spencer and G. F. Hales, attached for course of instruction from 8th Battalion, Newark, 29/6/21.

Capt. J. A. Marsden, R.A.M.C., posted for duty as Medical Officer 4/7/21, vice Dr. Alan Shearwood.

To 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Lieut. J. H. Slaughter, to 1st Battalion, 30/9/20.

Major J. H. Mathias, O.B.E., to 2nd Battalion, Egypt, 28/10/20.

The Barrack Square is now replete with the trophies of war captured by the different Battalions from 1914 to 1918. These have all been painted and varnished and mounted on platforms and placed in good positions round the Barracks. They are all a great source of interest to visitors.

“ DERBYSHIRE.”

VI

3RD BATTALION NOTES

THERE is very little to say about the 3rd Battalion this year, except that on May 8th the Bishop of Derby dedicated a Memorial Tablet to those who fell in the War, at All Saints Church, Derby. The Depot attended the service, and their buglers sounded the Last Post.

We are to have no training this year ; in fact, recruiting has not been opened. The Royal Proclamation only affected me, and I was not actually called on to do anything.

Colonel the Hon. G. N. Curzon died during the autumn ; he commanded the Battalion prior to Col. Gordon Cumming. He was Hon. Colonel of the Battalion. Major Collin and I attended the funeral at Kedleston, and the Battalion sent a wreath.

Lieut.-Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir F. C. Shaw has been appointed Hon. Colonel of the Battalion in succession to Col. Curzon.

H. E. D. D.-W.

VII

6TH BATTALION NOTES

WHEN orders were received to reconstruct the Battalion, Lt.-Col. E. Hall, D.S.O., T.D., was appointed the Commanding Officer, and Capt. W. Seaton, M.C., D.C.M., Adjutant. Recruiting was immediately commenced, which was rather slow at first, but improved considerably before the Annual Training commenced on the 1st August, 1920. Scarborough was the training ground chosen, and we marched into camp 28 officers and 400 other ranks strong, only five months having elapsed since recruiting commenced, and everyone concerned put their shoulder to the wheel. In consequence, the recruits were brought into line, and it was pleasing to see the manner in which they drilled and the soldier-like manner in which all ranks behaved.

The Battalion had a good time at Scarborough, and the weather, although a little wet, did not damp the ardour of the men. On the completion of the training the Brigade Commander congratulated the Battalion on their turn-out, good behaviour and smartness at drill in all movements.

The undermentioned officers have been appointed to the Battalion :—

Lt.-Col. E. Hall, D.S.O., T.D. Commanding Officer.

Major H. C. Brooke Taylor. Second-in-command.

Capt. B. Darbyshire, M.C. Since transferred to T.F.R.

„ F. M. Dick, M.C.

„ E. M. Brooke Taylor, M.C.

„ V. O. Robinson, M.C. Since transferred to T.F.R.

„ W. Seaton, M.C., D.C.M. Adjutant.

„ I. Davies.

„ H. H. Jackson, M.C.

„ J. W. B. Symonds.

- Capt. J. L. Percival, M.C.
 „ C. V. H. C. Blackwall.
 Lieut. H. Douglas. Since transferred to T.F.R.
 „ C. H. M. Owen, M.C.
 „ G. F. Gardner.
 „ J. Taylor. Since transferred to Div. Sig. Coy.
 „ B. E. Johnson.
 „ G. S. Rivington.
 „ J. W. Potter, D.S.O.
 „ V. H. Armitage, M.C.
 „ A. J. Cook.
 „ H. Waterhouse, M.C.
 „ J. Clarke, D.S.O., M.C.
 „ F. K. West.
 „ A. Marchington. Since transferred to T.F.R.
 „ L. Parkinson.
 „ G. Glossop.
 „ H. Higham.
 Capt. and Quartermaster C. E. Brown. Since resigned.
 „ „ W. H. Broomhead.

On our return from camp we settled down to the annual course of musketry. The Battalion were second in the list of percentages, and C Company, commanded by Capt. E. M. Brooke Taylor, M.C., was the best shooting company in the Sherwood Foresters Brigade Group.

A week-end camp was held at Edale from 24th to 27th September, 1920, at which 12 officers and 250 other ranks attended. A great deal of useful training and musketry was got through.

During 1920 the Battalion was very successful in winning several good prizes in sports.

On 1st January, 1921, a new training season started, and recruiting was going on briskly and everyone was hoping to be at full strength before the annual camp, 1921, when unfortunately the industrial unrest in April stopped recruiting for the Territorial Force, and recruiting commenced for the Defence Force on 9th April, 1921, and as the officers and permanent staff form the nucleus of the Defence Force it interfered with the training and recruiting of the Territorial

Force. However, this was overcome, and the Battalion strength was 24 officers and 509 other ranks strong when the annual training commenced on 31st July, 1921. Skegness was chosen for annual training this year, and, although a good many men had served in the Defence Force, we were able to muster the Battalion at camp 15 officers and 443 other ranks. The camping ground was very good, and all ranks took a great interest in their training. General Sir Ivor Maxse inspected the Brigade during training. The Battalion left Skegness on Sunday, 14th September, everyone having enjoyed the camp and done some useful training.

During the annual training Brigade sports were held, and the Brigade Commander gave a handsome silver cup to the Battalion winning most points. The 6th Battalion won the cup.

On the evening of 9th August our Hon. Colonel, the Marquis of Hartington, dined with the officers. On the 10th he inspected the Battalion, after marching past in column and close column. The Battalion was formed up, and the Colonel, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the great pleasure it had given him to see the Battalion progressing so favourably.

Each member of the team secured a prize in the Queen Mary's competition.

A team was sent to represent the Battalion at the Bisley meeting this year, and for a young team did very well. They were welcomed by Lord Cheylesmore as the only competing Territorial team, and he expressed the hope that next year each county would be represented in the same way.

W. S.

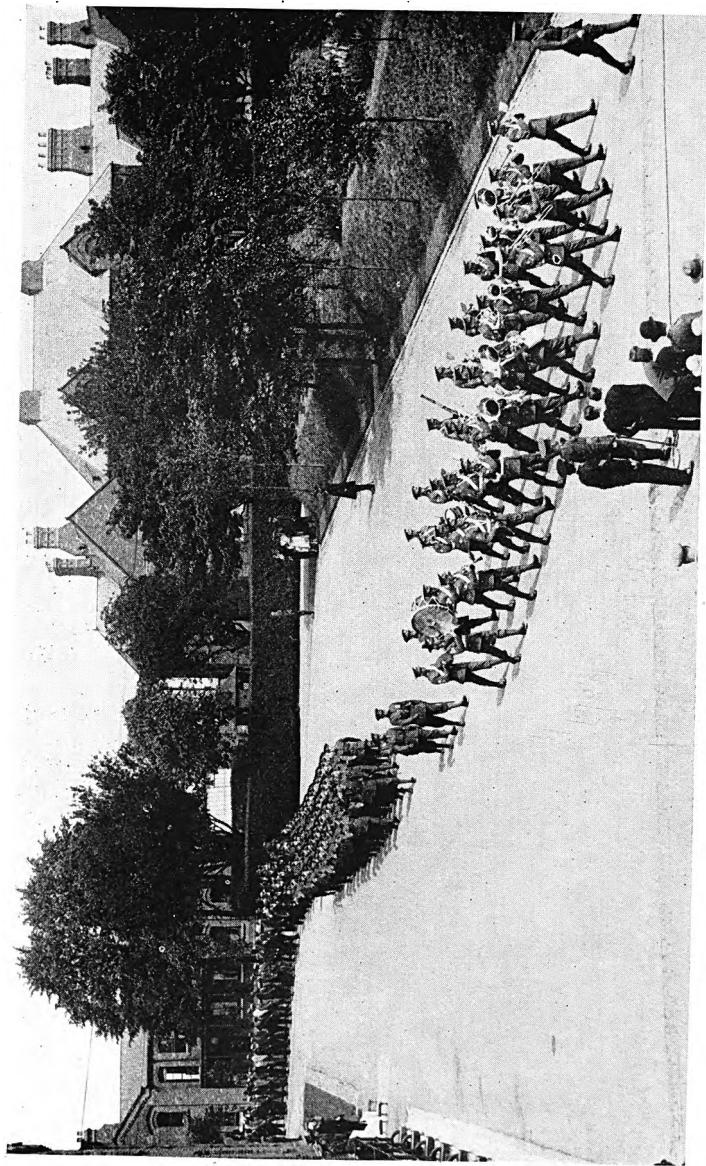
VIII

7TH BATTALION NOTES

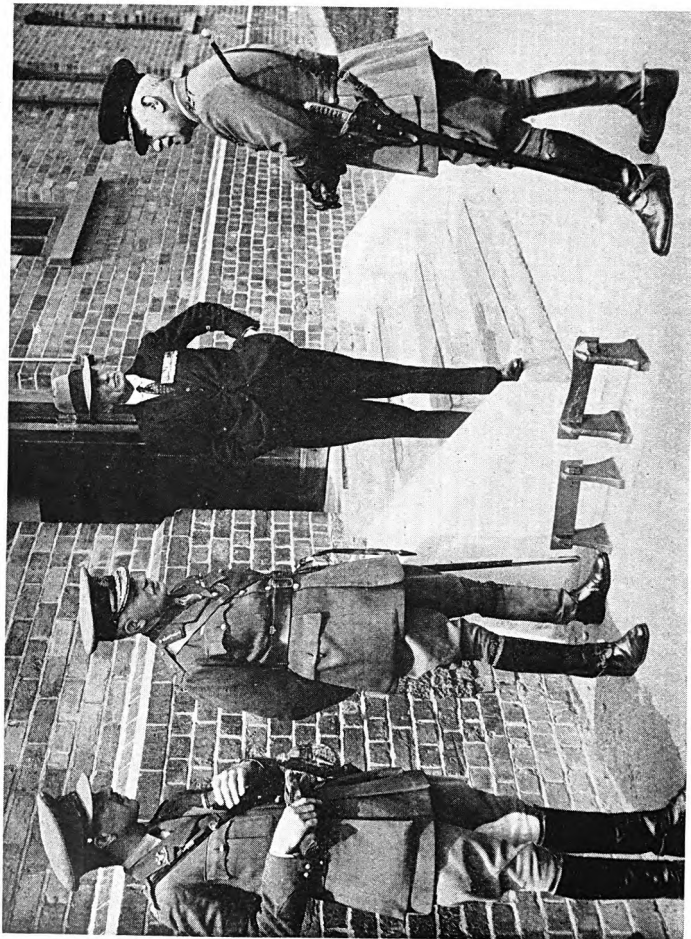
IN last year's Annual the Robin Hood Notes covered the period of the War only, it is therefore necessary to go back some way and deal with the re-formation of the peace-time Battalion.

Owing to a War Office enquiry into the question of re-organisation of the Territorial Force, it was some time after final demobilisation before any steps were taken to re-form the Battalion. At length it was announced that Lt.-Col. A. W. Brewill, D.S.O., who had commanded the 1/7th Battalion for so long in France, had been appointed to command the new Battalion. Naturally, a considerable number of his old officers and men rallied round their old Colonel, and a strong cadre on which to build the new Battalion was soon appointed. Major Spalding became Second-in-Command, and the companies were commanded by Major W. R. Rook, O.B.E., Major H. Bradwell, Capt. L. L. Cooper and Capt. L. C. Brewill, with Capt. E. Skinner as Quartermaster.

Owing to the short time available there were some doubts as to whether there would be a camp in 1920. Orders were received, however, for the Sherwood Foresters Brigade to spend the first two weeks of August at Scarborough and preparations were hastily pushed forward. Recruiting was all this time being carried on as strongly as possible and met with most response from those who had been too young to serve in the war, and as large numbers of trained N.C.O.'s had already joined this was by no means a bad thing. Many of the men who went to camp had done very few drills, and the work was not made too difficult for the first camp. The Battalion lines were by the sea, and, in spite of wet weather, the camp was in all ways a great success. Musketry had to be carried out after the camp, and the work of getting the



LIEUT.-GEN. SIR B. F. BURNETT-HITCHCOCK, K.C.B., D.S.O., OFFICIATING COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, TAKING THE SALUTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION CHURCH PARADE, SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1934, AT NORMANTON BARRACKS, DERBY



LIEUT.-COLONEL
D. C. L. RICHARDSON,
M.C., D.A.A. & Q.M.G.,
46th (N.M.) Division
and Area.

MAJOR-GENERAL
SIR HERWARD WAKE,
Br. C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O.,
Commander 46th
Division and Area.

LIEUT.-GENERAL
SIR W. R. MARSHALL,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.,
Colonel of the
Regiment

LIEUT.-GENERAL
SIR B. F. BURNETT-HITCHCOCK,
K.C.B., D.S.O.,
Officiating Colonel of the
Regiment



LIEUT.-COL. A. W. BREWILL, D.S.O.

COMMANDING 7TH (ROBIN HOOD) BATTALION SHERWOOD FORESTERS

(Served with the Robin Hoods for over forty-three years and commanded the Battalion
in France for two years)

Facing page 60

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Battalion firmly established did not cease during the winter.

To come to the present year, 1921. The first thing done in the spring was to commence a strong recruiting rally, and it was hoped that the Battalion would go into camp at full strength. Unfortunately, the Battalion received a severe setback, as on April 7th the Sherwood Foresters Defence Force was formed, and at the request of the War Office the Colonel and most of the officers of the Robin Hoods transferred to this Battalion, together with the whole of the Permanent Staff.

The Defence Force Battalion existed as a mobilised force for three months, and during these, for the Territorials the most valuable months of the year, the work of the Robin Hoods was almost at a standstill, with the exception of squad drills for recruits.

The Defence Force Battalion was billeted at Colwick, near Nottingham, at first in racing stables, and afterwards under canvas. A party of officers and men of the South Notts Hussars Defence Force was transferred to the unit, and Major G. Cantrell Hubbersty, D.S.O., became second-in-command of the Battalion. In a remarkably short time the force settled down and became a really smart and efficient unit, receiving many compliments from Inspecting Generals. In addition, the usual Sherwood Forester reputation for sport was maintained—cricket, football and fishing being the principal items on the programme. During the summer Major Spalding retired, taking with him the best wishes of all Robin Hoods who knew him, and Major W. R. Rook, O.B.E., was appointed second-in-command of the Battalion. The Defence Force was not disbanded until about July 8th. Again there were doubts about the Territorial Camp, but at the end of July the Battalion went under canvas at Skegness. About one hundred old soldiers from the Defence Force joined the Robin Hoods, including a number of N.C.O.'s, while owing to the Territorial rifles being used by the Defence Force many of the recruits went to camp never having had a rifle in their hands before.

The problem of carrying out a useful fortnight's training for men in such varying stages of training was only successfully

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The problem of carrying out a useful fortnight's training for men in such varying stages of training was only successfully

solved by the experience of the officers and N.C.O.'s and the keenness of the men. A progressive programme of work was carried out, as much field work as possible under the circumstances being done, the culminating points being the Annual Inspection of the Battalion and a Ceremonial Parade, when the salute was taken by the Brigade Commander, Col. G. D. Goodman, C.M.G., D.S.O. Lieut.-Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief Northern Command, inspected the Battalion very thoroughly both for training and organisation, and he expressed great satisfaction with all he saw. Needless to say, the Battalion was both pleased and encouraged by his remarks, especially so as they had been unable to get in a full year's training since the war. The usual sports in camp were entered into with much heartiness, boxing being very popular. The Mayor, Sheriff and Corporation of Nottingham visited the camp and played a cricket match against the officers, which was enjoyed none the less for providing humour as well as skill. Altogether the camp was an excellent one, a large amount of useful work being got through, and we left Skegness feeling that the new Battalion was really getting firmly established. Drills and musketry were continued after camp.

During September the Robin Hoods formed a Guard-of-Honour at the unveiling of the memorial to Capt. Albert Ball, V.C., a Robin Hood officer, afterwards attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

The Robin Hood War Memorial in St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, is to be unveiled on October 16th. It comprises a bronze tablet some nine feet long representing the Robin Hoods returning from the trenches, and underneath is a bronze safe containing on vellum the names of those who fell in the war.

Before the service it is proposed to have a parade in Nottingham Great Market Place prior to handing over the Colours of the Robin Hood Rifle Volunteers to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, to be hung on each side of the memorial in the chancel of the church. A detachment of N.C.O.'s wearing the old Lincoln Green uniform will form a special escort to the Colour party.



OFFICERS 7TH (ROBIN HOOD) BATTALION SHERWOOD FORESTERS (SCARBOROUGH CAMP, 1920)

WHO JOINED THE BATTALION ON RE-FORMATION IN 1920

Top Row—Lieut. R. B. EMWETT, M.C., Capt. L. L. COOPER, Lieut. E. J. MELVILLE, Capt. E. SKINNER, Qr. Mr. Capt. J. W. SCOTT, M.C. (Medical Officer), Lieut. V. S. JACKSON, Capt. F. HENRY, M.C., Capt. A. A. WALTON, Capt. J. A. PLAYER, Capt. L. J. C. BREWILL, Lieut. J. A. B. HAMILTON
Middle Row—Major W. R. ROOK, O.B.E., Major H. SPALDING, Col. G. D. GOODMAN, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Commanding Sherwood Foresters' Brigade), Lieut.-Col. A. W. BREWILL, D.S.O. (Commanding Officer), Lieut.-Col. R. H. WATMAN, D.S.O. (Brigade Major), Rev. H. T. HAYMAN (Chaplain), Capt. F. H. LE G. HORTON (Rifle Brigade Adjutant), Major H. BRADWELL
Bottom Row—Lieut. B. H. BREWILL, Lieut. J. GARNER, Lieut. W. A. LEE, Lieut. R. A. FORREST, Capt. D. H. RICHARDSON, M.C.

All the above officers have War Service except Lieut. J. A. B. HAMILTON

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
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In conclusion, we feel that, in spite of difficulties, we have had a year of real progress, and there is a confident hope that the Battalion will be raised to its full establishment before the summer of next year.

IX

8TH BATTALION NOTES

LITTLE of interest took place in connection with the Battalion after the completion of demobilisation in June, 1919, until November of that year, when the officers of both the 1/8th and 2/8th Battalions held a very enjoyable Reunion Dinner in Newark Town Hall.

By that time there seemed to be a general understanding that the Territorial Force was to be reorganised, though no definite steps had been taken. At the dinner, however, we had the pleasure of meeting Lt.-Col. B. Abel Smith, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., who we were told was to be the Commanding Officer of the Battalion when it was re-formed.

Early in 1920 it was decided that the Territorial Force should be organised again more or less on pre-war lines, and on February 24th Col. Smith was appointed to command the Battalion. He had seen a long period of active service in the East in command of the 2nd South Notts Hussars, and for some time he had commanded the 23rd Middlesex in France. We felt, therefore, that the Battalion could not well be entrusted to better hands, and we congratulated ourselves that we had the good fortune to have him for our new C.O.

The appointment of Adjutant was not made until the middle of April, when Capt. W. H. C. Ramsden, M.C., of the East Yorkshire Regiment, joined the Battalion. He, too, had seen considerable war service in France, and had also experienced the delights of campaigning in the Cameroons. He came with a reputation as a machine-gunner, and he has not only lived up to that reputation, but has proved that he has many other accomplishments of an equally high order.

Col. Smith very wisely decided to organise the Battalion by first selecting his officers and by letting them then proceed to form their Companies by the selection of suitable subordinate



MEMORIAL, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NOTTINGHAM

UNVEILED BY MAJOR-GENERAL E. J. MONTAGU-STUART-WORTLEY, C.B., C.M.G.,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 1921.

The inscription under the bronze tablet reads as follows :—

This Memorial is erected to the Officers, Non-Com-Officers and Privates of the Three Robin Hood Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, faced peril, endured hardness, and gave their own lives that others might live.

“ Their labours, their privations, their sufferings, and their
valour, can never be forgotten.”

Sixty-four Officers and eight hundred and twenty-two Other Ranks of
The Robin Hoods were killed in action or died of wounds in France
and Flanders, 1914-18.

The King's Colour and Regimental Colour of the Robin Hood Rifle
Volunteers are hung on each side of the Memorial.

Facing page 64

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**ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS**

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commanders, who it was hoped would bring with them the personnel necessary to form, at any rate, a skeleton Battalion. A good start was made during the month of April by the enrolment of a good number of officers, and the first three men of the newly organised Battalion were sworn in during the same month.

Under the post-war scheme the Battalion was to consist of four Companies only, so that the pre-war arrangement of eight Companies had to be scrapped, and amalgamations became necessary. The area around Arnold and Carlton was allotted to A Company, that about Newark and Southwell went to B Company, Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield formed C Company area, and Worksop and Retford made up D Company.

By the end of June most of the officers had been selected, and a perusal of the following list will show that amongst them were many who had seen service during the war. In many cases they had served with our own Battalion :—

Commanding Officer : Lt.-Col. B. A. Smith, D.S.O., M.C.,
T.D.

Second-in-command : Major A. C. Clarke.

Transport Officer : Capt. C. Davenport.

Quartermaster : Capt. E. A. Pollard.

Chaplain : Rev. J. P. Hales, D.S.O.

A Company : Capt. A. L. Ashwell, D.S.O., in command ;
Capt. W. C. C. Weetman, M.C., second-in-command ;
Platoon Commanders Lieuts. C. Cursham, H. A. F.
Crewdson and G. N. B. Huskinson.

B Company : Capt. J. K. Lane in command ; Capt. J. W.
Turner, M.C., second-in-command ; Platoon Commanders—Lieuts. E. A. Huskinson, M.C., J. R. Dench, M.C., and A. Archer, M.C.

C Company : Capt. J. B. White, M.C., in command ; Lieut.
A. Andrews, M.C., second-in-command ; Platoon Commanders—Lieuts. A. G. T. Lomer, M.C., R. H. Bolton, M.M., and C. B. Webster.

D Company : Major R. J. Wordsworth, D.S.O., in command ; Lieut. C. P. Elliott, M.C., second-in-command ; Platoon Commander—Lieut. C. L. Hill.

VIII.—F

Capt. W. H. Allen also rejoined, but after a short time transferred to the T.F. Reserve.

2nd Lieut. G. F. Hales, son of Padre Hales, was gazetted in September and posted to A Company; and 2nd Lieut. E. C. Spencer joined in October and went to D Company.

No Medical Officer was found until November, when Capt. E. M. D. Morris joined us.

The Battalion was fortunate in being allotted an excellent lot of Permanent Staff instructors. W. Mounteney, D.C.M., was reappointed R.S.M., a post which he had occupied with much success for a long period in France. He was detailed to act as instructor for A Company at Arnold. Other appointments were as follows :—

B Company : Sergt. T. Brittle, Newark ; C.S.M. H. Underwood, D.C.M., M.M., Southwell.

C Company : C.S.M. G. Powditch, D.C.M., M.M., Mansfield ; C.S.M. P. Brailsford, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

D Company : C.S.M. G. W. Fitzjohn, M.M., Worksop ; C.Q.S.M. G. Richards, M.M., Retford.

Successful recruiting dinners were held at all centres during April and May, and efforts during those and the two following months were concentrated in getting together a nucleus on which it was hoped that the Battalion might one day be made up to establishment. Eventually we went to camp at Scarborough at the end of July with 23 officers and 331 other ranks, there being only four absentees. The establishment laid down was 28 officers and 680 other ranks, so that we were very nearly up to strength in the former, and had half our full complement of N.C.O.'s and men. About 65 per cent of our numbers were war veterans, who had seen service with our own or other units in France or some other theatre of war.

The Battalion encamped with the rest of the 139th Brigade, under the command of Col. G. D. Goodman, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., in a damp spot off the North Shore. Owing to several heavy storms during our stay drainage operations on a con-

siderable scale became necessary, particularly in the officers' lines.

The other two Brigades of the 46th Division were not with us. The Division was under the command of Major-Gen. Sir R. (Hoskins), K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Owing to the little time available for drill and instruction before camp our work in camp consisted mainly in getting to know each other and in classes of instruction for N.C.O.'s and recruits. Company work was practically impossible owing to our few numbers and to the lack of previous training of the recruits. For similar reasons this camp was not quite looked upon as a time for serious training, and as a consequence sport and recreation figured largely in the programme. In spite of the unfavourable weather everybody seemed to enjoy the outing and the many attractions offered by this fashionable seaside resort.

Battalion sports were held two days before we left. Interest centred largely in the football competition, which was won by B Company, after a final encounter with D Company.

The massed bands of the Brigade gave an excellent Tattoo one evening on the Marine Drive, which was admirably carried out and attracted a large gathering.

After camp the chief work was the completion of the year's musketry, the results of which were eminently satisfactory. The Battalion average of 67·1 was the best in the Division, and D Company were the highest in the Battalion with an average of 72·3.

B Company held a very successful shooting competition in December, the prizes for which were given by the residents and tradesmen of Newark.

During the latter part of the year steps were taken under the new Territorial Force scheme to start recreation clubs at each of the main centres in the Battalion area. Under the guiding hand of the Adjutant, whose energies in all things knew no bounds, and with the help of local officers, Permanent Staff and others, clubs were started at Arnold, Carlton, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Newark, Southwell, Worksop and Retford. Nothing very elaborate was attempted at first, but in all cases the clubs were started on right lines, and it is hoped

that on the foundations so laid it will be possible to build up most useful centres for Territorial recreation in the future, and so foster the right spirit of sportsmanship and fair play which are so essential to every branch of the British Army.

X

AN IRISH SUBALTERN IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1846-1849

(Reprinted, by permission, from the *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution*.)

The materials from which this sketch of the soldier life of William Fleming has been drawn are his own home letters, which his nephew, the late Major Edward Fleming, entrusted to the present writer for publication. The extracts from the letters, which in the original amount to more than 45,000 words, are given textually, without correction of the numerous errors of spelling, grammar, and composition.—[W.F.T.]

PART I

THE WAR OF THE AXE

"45th Foot, Gentleman Cadet William Fleming from the Royal Military College to be Ensign. Dated 30th December, 1845."—*London Gazette*, January 2nd, 1846.

"The Revd. William Fleming, who died on Sunday last at Christchurch Vicarage, Chislehurst, had had a varied career. He was formerly in the 45th Regiment, in which he went through the first Boer War under Sir Harry Smith, being present at the battle of Boomplatz. He was awarded the Kaffir War Medal. On leaving the Army he went to Cambridge, where he won a scholarship at St. Catherine's College, just as his brother, Canon Fleming, was leaving Magdalen College. He took a 1st class in the Law Tripos in 1857, and was at once ordained by Dr. Gilbert, Bishop of Chichester, to the curacy of All Saints, Brighton."—*Times*, May 22nd, 1900.

The 45th was serving in South Africa, and in May, 1846, Ensign Fleming left England in the sailing transport *Cornwall* which he describes as the "most beautiful sailer that comes out of London." At Cork he posts a letter to his mother.

"Now, darling Mammy," he says, "you see I am in a splendid ship, got a nice crew, very comfortable cabin, well fed, nice set of officers, and in fact your son Bill is perfectly happy at the idea of at last going to serve his Queen and his Dear country, and if that does not make you happy I do not know what will"; and he reproaches himself for having been in fits of laughter as the Land's End was fading out of sight "at some ridiculous story of the Chief Mate's instead of thinking of those so dear that I had left behind."

The *Cornwall* stayed a few days at Teneriffe, where "The Town Major or someone of that sort came off in a very splash boat with an interperator and asked all sorts of questions." An attempt to sample the sporting resources of the island failed. "G. and I went on shore with our guns but did not succeed in shooting anything as there is not a bird in the Island almost—the only shot we had was at a sort of Chafinch but I blew him to atoms so it was not worth preserving, so we returned without a Specimen of the Isle."

The letter-writer says that the monotony of the voyage from Teneriffe to the Cape was relieved by the "number of rows and my being adjutant." There were, he relates, no less than sixty-six rows and quarrels, which ranged from a quickly suppressed mutiny of the crew to an accusation made by the second mate that the military officers were in the habit of smuggling the wine off the cuddy table and drinking it in their own cabins. "The second Mate was not allowed to dine at the mess any more."

Fleming's first letter from the Cape contains a chortle of boyish delight at what he calls the "News of all News, that the whole Colony is at war with the Kaffirs. For my own part I can scarcely keep myself from jumping out of my skin with joy at the idea of really being a soldier and not playing at them, the way we do at home. I pity Francis"—his elder brother at Cambridge—"I suppose he is reading hard for his Great Go."

The situation in South Africa at the end of August, 1846, when Fleming reached Cape Town, was briefly as follows:—

A Kaffir accused of stealing an axe had a few months previously been rescued by his fellow-tribesmen while manacled to a Hottentot who was killed in the scuffle. The outrage was

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committed on British territory, and when the native chiefs refused to give satisfaction war was declared against them, a struggle which is known as the War of the Axe. The Kaffir leader was a young chief named Sandile, who on April 15th adroitly ambushed a British column 1500 strong and forced it to retire on Fort Beaufort, leaving more than half its transport in his hands.*

William Fleming hurried up to join the 45th, which was on active service on the Kaffir frontier. Again he tells his mother: "You cannot think how happy I am to find that I am really at last a soldier and not playing at them as I have been."

To his brother Francis he writes from Grahamstown on October 1st:—

"We marched in here on one of the wettest days I can ever remember. I being one of that happy race called Subs was sent with a Waggon containing £10,000 to the Commisariat store, where I was kept standing in an office in my wet clothes till 8 o'clock that night seeing that this horrid Waggon full of money was correct . . . After it was all over I got something to eat and turned into my first Bed since I left England and awoke next morning none the worse of my wetting or troubles and fancying myself all the greater soldier . . . On the march we were served out with one pound of meat and pound of bread and had to cook it the best we could. Now that is the sort of life I call *prime*, worth a dozen of your titivating sort of lives in the Pump Room at Bath . . . You have no idea, dear Francis, how happy I feel or rather the joyous sensation I feel at being at last what I have so long wished for that is, a soldier. There is something so jolly in boiling a bit of beef over a wood fire outside ones tent after a hungry march . . . All the officers here carry their guns as you cant get the Kafers near enough to use your swords . . . Every officer gets 60 rounds of ball cartridge as well as the men and if he has no gun of his own he is expected to get a musket or some implement as a sword is about as much use as a tallow candle with the Kaffirs . . . There is a cheif here who is a prisoner but calls himself a visitor. His name is Um

* In this affair the officers' mess plate of the 7th Dragoon Guards was lost. During the Boer War of 1899-1902 advertisements for its recovery appeared in the South African papers.

Kai. I went to see him last night and he was very polite and immediately ordered two slaves to dance for our amusement. He is a very fierce looking fellow about 6 feet and quite black (the same as all Kaffirs). I told him that I was going to Kaffirland to kill his people when he looked very fierce and said, 'Kaffir big man, Kaffir fight, Kaffir kill as well as you can.' "

But "Kaffir big man" had not had it all his own way since Sandile's ambush in April. In June a column under Col. Somerset smashed the *élite* of the Kaffir tribes on the River Gwanga. The chiefs lost heart, but maintained the struggle for a few months. An ultimatum was presented to them in September which, after some hesitation, they found it prudent to accept. Sandile gave himself up, bringing with him the man who had stolen the axe. Only one chief, Pato, the Rob Roy of the tribes, now remained out; but bands of marauders and robbers, who acknowledged fealty to no chief, infested the frontier districts and carried on a guerilla warfare which on the British side was waged with great difficulty. The waste of horseflesh was enormous, and forage was so scarce that it became necessary to feed the troop horses of the 7th Dragoon Guards on biscuits.

William Fleming's next letter is addressed to his brother James* and is dated 8th November, from Block Drift on the Chumie :—

"Mother asks if the death in our regt. gives me a step—it does and I have got another about a week ago by Ensign W——† selling out—he was sent out on 10 days patrol which is they send you up the mountains without tents or any baggage at all but just your provisions a blanket and a clean shirt and go in this way up the mountains and whop the Kafirs the best way you can—when poor W—— returned to camp he was so knocked up with rheumatism and one thing and another that he sent in his papers and has gone home."

A delightful morsel of fatherly advice to the young brother is followed inconsequently by information about the rates of postage :—

* The late Canon Fleming, Vicar of St. Michael's, Chester Square.

† Evidently, from the Army List, an Ensign Woodford.

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"I suppose you have by this time all settled down in Shrewsbury—I hope you will like the school and get on well there—only be steady and the rest will follow—you must pay 8d. on all the letters you write."

He was more fortunate than he had been in Teneriffe, where he complained that he could not get a specimen of the isle :—

"I have been to visit the Gwanga which is where the 7th Dragoons cut up 600 hundred Kafirs, the banks are strewn with dead bodies for about five miles—I have got the jaw of a Kaffir which I took off a skeleton on the field as a relic of the first Battle field I had ever seen—I have got some very nice skins of birds all of which I have shot and skinned myself."

In January, 1847, he writes to tell his mother that he had been ill :—

"About 3 or 4 days before Xmas I was attacked by Disentery which made me so dreadfully weak that I could hardly stand, this with a very slight cough and total loss of appetite reduced me the once fat shiny Villam to almost a skeleton and I can assure you that when I looked in the Glass and Saw my pale face I would almost think it was a dream. When the Doctor came to see me this morning He said I looked 10 times better than yesterday so I immediately said I would write to you. I am still very nervous as you may see by my writing."

In the same letter he gives his first experience of a South African storm :—

"The morning had been very fine but about 3 in the Afternoon it Darkened quite suddenly when Thunder, lightning, Wind and rain burst on us, all at the same moment and Whirling our poor tents to the Ground—the whole camp was levelled in one moment to the ground and red jackets Blankets Companies account and Defaulters books, in short everything blown about everywhere at the mercy of the wind. I got every stitch wet so heavy was the rain. . . . It lasted for about an hour and a half and then cleared off a little but continued Drizzling the Whole night. . . . Not a dry thing to put on or a dry Blanket or a dry spot to lye on. I succeeded in getting a dry pair of trousers and My servants Coatee which he had in some way or other managed to keep dry and putting it on

without a shirt the coarse Cloth soon warmed me. . . . The next morning the Sun making his appearance the camp was a perfect Museum—everything laid out on the grass to dry—Shirts—Blue Coats—Red jackets—White trousers—Blanketts and Bedding, everything that you can imagine a soldier to have in Camp. My most serious loses were my Bible, which was wet thro' and a good many of the leaves are very much stained but I am never ashamed to show that it has seen service. . . . I got such a disgust of Tents when that Storm came on that I built myself a Kaffir hut in which I am writing this letter. . . . I have totally forgot to wish you the Compliments of the passed season which however I do now most cordially wish . . . it is the first Xmas we have been separated for a long time but I hope you enjoyed it none the worse. I know I often thought of you all, altho' I would not like to have been with you more than just the week—not that I love you all the less you know *I must see the World* as I have so often said. . . . I must now conclude, dear Mamma hoping you will be able to get thro' this wretchedly written thing and Excuse all mistakes from your convalescent but affect and loving son."

He soon went down on sick leave to Grahamstown, which he found "most dreadfully stupid—some few sick officers and quantities of officers' wives listening to every idle report that comes down from the field."

An incidental remark throws a curious light on the purchase system, under which five officers on active service could, apparently without reproach, put their commissions up to auction to be bid for by their juniors :—

"I expect there will be a great run in our regt. shortly, as the old hands don't like this work. Old —, Captains —, —, — and —, all want to go if they can get the money they want and some of the senior lieutenants are very much inclined to get rid of them."

Meanwhile the War of the Axe was still dawdling on, and Pato remained on the warpath. An Indian General, Sir Henry Pottinger, was sent out as Governor of Cape Colony.

"The new Governor has arrived," writes Fleming to his brother on February 2nd, 1847, "and is I believe going at the

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Kaffirs in earnest of which I am so glad as I hate them they are so cowardly and treacherous. Pato one of the chiefs has sent into the colony 3 large bodies of his own tribe to steal all the cattle they can, so I think there is every chance of a good rattling war."

Fleming returned in March to the Chumie, where a fort of huts had been built for the troops. The 45th formed part of a column sent against Pato, one company of which he was ensign being, to his great regret, left behind at the fort.

"I am very comfortable in my hut," he writes to his young brother James, "but I would have far preferred going out. Sir Henry Pottinger has offered peace to the tribes provided the chiefs place themselves under the Government of British Commissioners, and Sandile the King of the tribes seems inclined to surrender, only he does not like so much power being taken from him. . . . I heard this morning that he was very much frightened when he saw our regt. and the 7th Dragoons moving out of the fort—but when he heard that they were moving against Pato he was very glad as he had quarrelled with Pato himself."

Young James seems to have much fancied himself in the new stand-up collars which he had recently assumed, and young William seems to think that he wants taking down a peg or two:—

"I daresay our ajutant will take you into the band if you like, by a little interest on my part, altho' you are under standered height—we can black your face as you did at the ball, and say that you are a young Kaffir we took and tamed—and the idea of a boy like you talking of stick ups and saying that 'you like them very much.' Why I should think that you are the ugliest young sinner in England in them, give Francis my love and ask him to give you a kick somewhere every time you pull up your gills."

Sir Henry Pottinger, meanwhile, was doing his best, and by degrees the robber bands were expelled from British territory. All trading with native tribes was forbidden under martial law, as there was no doubt that they were constantly receiving supplies of ammunition through white channels. The sea base was advanced from the mouth of the Great Fish River to the

mouth of the Buffalo, where the port of East London now stands ; a movement which, as the Kaffirs soon perceived, threatened the flank of their position in the hinterland. It is said that there was a belief prevalent among them that when sea-wagons should come to the mouth of the Buffalo Kaffirland would perish. Pato, however, remained out. Sandile had, indeed, surrendered, but there was little doubt that his submission was not made in good faith, but was rather a *reculer pour mieux sauter*. It gave him time to conduct the customary agricultural work of the season. When this was over, he openly threw aside the ploughshare and drew the sword. He ambushed a stray column, and in August, 1847, was proclaimed a rebel. He quitted the Amatola lands, which had been assigned to him on his submission, and withdrew to the mountains.

Two home letters only, written by William Fleming during the winter months (May–August) of 1847, have been preserved.

In April he had been sent down to the mouth of the Great Fish River on convoy duty. He met the new Governor, who asked him to dine, “ which was very kind of the Old Gentleman and which you may be sure I was glad to do. Of course there was not much style about the thing, as he is living in a tent and has only his staff to dine with him. There is to be a suspension of all hostilities with the Kaffirs for the next three months during the winter and then they say that it will break out all fresh again.”

In the same letter he asks his mother to send “ the book on astronomy that —— gave me called the Sirial Heavens or some such name also any old fortifications history or any other books that would be useful in case I should ever think of the Senior Department at Sandhurst.* Now I dare say that you will laugh and say that this is some absurd fit I have taken into my head, but I can assure you I have been strongly advised to keep up the little I do know that I am fully determined to do so. Some good History or Geography book would prove very acceptable as I find Myself very deficient in both. I have just picked up a new sort of drawing called Isometrical Projection which is a sort of Bird’s Eye view of a place And gives a much better idea than the regular common plans. . . .

* The Staff College of the period.

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I have got a very nice little terrier dog which I have named after myself, *viz.*, Twiches. I don't think I have ever mentioned that my name in the Regt. is Twiches because the fellows say I am always jerking or Twiching myself about."

By the end of the winter Pottinger had completed his preparations for the spring campaign. A British regiment on its way home from India had been impounded at the Cape; Burgher, Fingo and Hottentot auxiliaries had been raised; Sandile had been outlawed; and Ensign Fleming was making his simple arrangements:—

"I myself am preparing for it by getting my tin Mug and Plate—Knife, Spoon, and Fork—Coffee and Sugar etc., etc., etc., ready."

Three columns* marched out to scour the mountains early in September. Sandile evaded them, but hunger compelled him to give himself up six weeks later. Pato held out distressfully for two months longer. "I am no longer a man but a baboon," he said pathetically to the officer to whom he surrendered, "for I have been living among the monkeys."

Pottinger returned to India before the operations were over, and his place was taken by Sir Harry Smith, who, by overawing the chiefs and inducing them to take the oath of allegiance, brought the War of the Axe to an end on January 7th, 1848.

Fleming's letters written during the spring and summer of 1847–8 give an account of the part he took in the last phase of the struggle.

"The second campaign of the 4th Caffre War," he writes to his mother on September 16th, "has just commenced with the return of Spring. . . . The English papers are all full of the Caffre war being at an end but I can assure you that it was only a lull while the winter lasted and I am afraid that we are a long way from the end of it yet. . . . The Army is to enter the Amatola Mountains (Sandile's country) in three divisions from 3 different quarters, our division consists of 7th Dn. Gds., 45th and 91st. . . . If we can find the Kaffirs in the Amatola why then we shall not cross the Kie but our spies say that Sandile and his men have all forsaken the

* Fleming calls them divisions, but they were, in fact, weak brigades.

Amatola and have retired across the river . . . I am appointed Actg. Adjutant, I believe I am to look on this appointment as a great mark of the colonel's approbation and *so I would if it gave me any extra pay.* . . . We are to take Pack mules instead of Waggon for carrying provisions and ammunition and all the Baggage is to be left in store. No tents allowed—I have got what they call a caross which is made of skins and perfectly waterproof, and with that and a couple of blankets I shall do right well—I like this sort of Patrolling work very much—no one knows the delight of sitting round a bivouac fire and talking after a hard day's work untill they have tried it. The Part that does not agree with me is having to be under arms an hour before daybreak—another very good point is that you are free from all expense—you live on your biscuit and beef which costs 3 halfpence per diem and when you return you find yourself in Balance with the Paymaster which is not disagreeable to poor me. . . . My next will give you some account of the Results of our campaigning."

There were, however, but few results to report when he next wrote.

"Since I last wrote we have spent 10 days in the Amatola Mountains but most extraordinary to say without scarcely a shot being fired altho' we burnt and ransacked the whole country. . . . One day we really thought that we were going to catch it—the Kaffirs had called to us from the hills and told us to come into the Wolf Valley and we would catch it and on going in we were told by our spies that the Kaffirs were in great force on a hill. Col. Cambell's division was directed to attack them but on reaching the top of the hill The Brutal Cowards took refuge in a forest so we bivouacked on the hill."

The letter ends with a delightful personal touch.

"What a Horrid fellow I am. I find on reading this over that I am so full of Military Ardour I have forgot my brothers. However they both know well that wherever I may be I don't forget Home sweet Home and its Dear Inhabitants."

He had omitted to send the usual affectionate messages to them.

In his home letters he had constantly said how much he liked his brother officers and how comfortable he was in his

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regiment. This seems to have reached the ears of an old family friend whom he calls the General :—

“ The General’s (letter) was as usual full of hard words and there was something in about ‘ with what pleasure he had read my pleasing and glittering account of my brother officers as he could fully appreciate the extreme advantages arising from a nice gentlemanly corps extending to each other such mutually beneficial and he need hardly add brotherly happiness.’ If this does not Bang Ballaker or some such place I don’t know what does (mind you tare this up as it would not do to let it come to the old Gent’s ears.)”

The injunction, however, was disregarded, and it was reserved for a scribe sixty-five years later to put the General’s rounded periods on record.

After mentioning some skirmishes with the Kaffirs, he concludes the letter with a quaint postscript :—

“ The Turkey Cocks here are pea green with a large row of teeth—Rather funny that—Hey ? ”

On Christmas Day, 1847, he writes to his mother :—

“ I shall begin by wishing you all many happy returns of the Day—What would I not give just to spend this evening with you all—I shall have one satisfaction when I sit down to my Xmas dinner (Beef and Biscuit) to know that this day in particular will call me to your minds and altho’ my seat is vacant and *the hole in the pudding not so large* I shall be thought of just as much as if I were present. . . . Sir H. Smith inspected our Regt. and said ‘ that it was with pleasure that he found himself with his old comrades the “ Gallant Fighting Forty Fifth,” that he had seen them under the Noble Duke of Wellington gain those victories which now decorated our Colours.’ ”

His next home letter, dated January 27th, 1848, announces to his brother James the conclusion of hostilities :—

“ The harassing but inglorious Caffre War is over and I am not sorry for it altho’ it cuts me down 1/6 a day War Pay. . . . On the 7th of this month the Chiefs met Sir H. Smith when he dictated terms to them to which they all acceded by kissing his foot. . . . He certainly is a most extraordinary

Man. He heard that the Dutch are threatening an outbreak in Natal. He immediately starts off and appears among the Dutch with only his interpreter and asks them what are their grievances for if they'll only tell him he will settle it all without fighting. His going amongst them with only one person is a sort of thing takes with the Dutch. . . . I must now tell you about my own welfare, since I came in from the field I have got the Charge of a company. . . . I can tell you one thing it is not by any means a usual thing for an ensign to get charge of a Company—pray excuse my vanity. Colonel —— has certainly behaved very well to me altho' he is not a bustling enough Commanding Officer to please me. . . . I must not close this letter without telling you dear Jemmy with what pleasure I read Mamma's and Francis's Accounts of your progress and conduct at school. It must be such a source of pleasure to our Dearest Mother and well does she deserve it. Ten thousand times do I thank her for the way in which I have been brought up and to that do I attribute my being so happy."

PART II

THE FIRST BOER WAR

A few months after the end of the War of the Axe William Fleming found himself again on active service.

The Boers of the Great Trek of 1836 distributed themselves over South Africa beyond the pale of the British Empire. Some settled in the country now known as the Orange Free State; others crossed the Drakensberg and endeavoured to colonise Natal. Each community was constantly in difficulties with the natives or with the British Government, which in 1848, on the petition of a considerable proportion of the burghers, annexed the Orange Free State. The malcontents rebelled, and with the assistance of a body of Natalian Boers, under the leadership of Pretorius, endeavoured to recover the annexed territory from the British. Such, in brief, was the situation in South Africa when William Fleming, not yet of age, marched out on his second campaign.

From Fort Hare in Natal he writes to his mother on July 28th, 1848:—

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"I have only just time to tell you the route arrived here an hour ago for Colesberg where the Dutch are in Rebellion. We march in the Morning and as the Officers are only allowed one Box I am at my wits end packing up all my things and trying to cram in a few necessaries, etc., etc., into this one box. We are going in regular light Marching order the men only taking one change rolled up in their Great Coats. The Boers are the other side of Colesberg and all the troops are to march there and wait the arrival of Sir H. Smith who is coming up from Cape Town to take Command—Colesberg is 400 miles from here so you see I start to-morrow with every prospect of a long march—I am very much pleased at seeing the Country and especially as I hear it is alive with game but you cannot tell how I am disgusted at the Idea of these long marches again. I had enough of them against the Kaffirs and I thought I was going to have a little peace at Fort Hare, do not think My dear Mother that I am for a moment unhappy, no quite the contrary but I would not be a true soldier if I did not grumble—I fully expect a little fighting when we do get there and am in great glee at the idea of its being under Sir Harry Smith."

His next letter is dated August 22nd from the "Camp on Orange River," probably at Norval's Pont :—

"We arrived here after 21 days hard Marching having I should say come fully 300 but as this country is not measured it is impossible to tell except by the time we take marching—Sir H. Smith met us about a mile from the Camp and complimented the men on looking so well after so long a march, he said he would have us at them in less than a week, the Boers were intrenched on the opposite bank of the River but about three days ago they suddenly marched away and our spies say that they are about two days march further into the country—Sir H. Smith has been at the Riverside since dawn this morning passing the men over on rafts which is rather a long business as the River is 300 yards broad and he has only two rafts which hold about 300 men each, the Rifles are crossing now and we are all in readiness so the moment the Bugle blows I close this letter—as soon as he has got all the troops across we march against the Boers camp

VIII.—G

but that will not be for a couple of days at least as I am sure it will take that to get the force here across, there are the Cape Mounted Rifles, 91st, 45th and Rifle Brigade, a demi battery of artillery and one months supplies, which is a good lot to pass over so large a river on the small rafts—The Boers are about 1200 strong but I don't think there will be a shot fired myself, if they meant to fight they would oppose us crossing the River today which would be their greatest advantage. However Sir Harry swears he will make them all know who he is when he gets us all over. He is the most extraordinary man I ever met, he is all life and energy and works from daylight until dark. Swears most awfully at everyone from his Aid de camps down to the drummer boy—I hope you will be able to read this, it is scarcely worth the postage except to let you know I am well and in my glory campaigning under Sir H. Smith, love to my dear brothers and excuse this hasty scrach from your son William whilst waiting to cross the great Orange River."

From Bethany he writes on August 30th, the day after the Battle of Boomplatz, to a brother officer left behind in Natal :—

" As I know you will have so many accounts of the row we had yesterday I just sit down to scribble a line or two which will give you all the true one—very circumstantial. We were 5 days crossing the Orange River and on the 6th day we marched at day light making about 18 miles on the road to Bloemfontein. On the 3rd days March, that is yesterday, we had marched about 14 miles, when we came to a place called Boom Platz—and there the Dutch opened fire on us from a most beautifull position.

" The Cape Corps immediately extended to the left, Dynely's 3 guns opened in the centre and the Infantry extended to the right and the Greacas* (I dont know how to spell it) on the right of all, they are all mounted about 300 of them and much the same as the Totties (Hottentots). Well, Sir, in this order Sir Harry called on us to advance and we drove them over two stoney hills and regularly put them to flight on the next flat.

* A Griqua corps of native auxiliaries.

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"It was the hardest work I ever had in my life mounting the rocks and when we got on the top and going down the next side we had it from the opposite hill pretty sharp, we ran as hard as we could across the flat between the hills and up the one the Boers had retired to (fixing bayonets) and when we got to the top they were going like blazes across the flat—the Cape Corps could not get up to them but the guns followed up and made them run faster—Blenkinsop led us like a Man, but the skirmishing was anything but regular the rifles on the right of the line, we in the centre and 91st on the left, but they all got mixed in the rush forward. (Here follows a list of casualties ; 2 officers killed, 8 wounded ; 12 men killed, 4 wounded) I suppose about 50 Boers fell but there is no exact account—they say there were 800 of them but I hardly think so many. We followed them up about 10 miles Making a march of 24 miles altogether, two hours of which was hard fighting. We halted (as I said after 24 miles) about dark but the Waggons did not come up till very late, we moved on again at 3 o'clock this Morning and arrived here about 10 having marched 20 miles without a halt, in hopes of catching them but they are off like shots. It is now 4 in the afternoon and our Waggons have not yet come up. I am writing this in a Missionary Chapel where I found this bit of paper—I suppose we move on in the Morning but the men are much knocked up—they have had no breakfast yet except some fowls that we found at this station—Blenkinsop and I had one for breakfast which we had great fun killing—the foraging is the jolliest part of it all—we got plenty of eggs and fowls since we left the River—Tench sent a man yesterday morning to kill some fowls, he killed 7 but the house belonged to a friendly Boer so the General had the man up and was going to flog him. Tench went and said he sent him, so the Man got off and Tench had to pay for the fowls. We had a great laugh at him about it, this happened about an hour before the fight."

He sends to his mother a copy in his own handwriting—and spelling—of Sir Harry Smith's General Orders issued after the battle :—

"The Commander in Chief congratulates the gallant

detachments of the corps under his command upon their brilliant achievements in dislodging from one of the strongest Positions ever attacked, the rebel force consisting of nearly one thousand Men, well armed and organized, altho' in a Bad cause.

"The Result has been the complete dispersion of the Rebels when every strong hold was successfully carried by the Bravery of the Cape Corps under Capt. Armstrong, the infantry under Major Beckwith and the artillery under Lieut. Dyneley, the whole being under the command of Lt. Col. Buller.

"The Gallant Conduct of the Troops on this dashing occasion is equaled only by their exertions in crossing the great and unfordable Orange River with very slender means and the cheerfulness with which they have marched nearly 400 miles without Intermission.

"Whether an Enemy consists of rebels or of regular soldiers if his position be of the strongest possible nature and his conduct brave—the troops which dislodge him merit equal praise.

"Our own loss has been severe, but 49 of the rebels were counted dead upon the field and their wounded must therefore have been considerable. Horses, arms and Equipments have fallen into our hands. The well-disposed population are flocking to our Camp, and it is believed that rebellion has ceased to exist.

"The High Approbation of the Commander in Chief of the gallant conduct of Lt. Col. Buller and of the officers and Men under his command cannot be exceeded."

All William Fleming's home letters from September, 1848, to April, 1849, are dated from Bloemfontein.

"My Dearest Mother," he writes 5 days after the battle, "how shall I commence to write all that I have got to say to you about what has happened since I last wrote to you from the other side of the Orange River. I must however try and give you a long long letter. But first of all I must beg of you, my darling mamma to thank God, before going any further, for His kindness in preserving your son through his first action under Sir Harry Smith. I had better commence however and give you a regular account of the last month's work which has been an eventful one in my life. As I told you in my

letter from the banks of the Orange River We marched from Fort Hare on the 29th July and continued without halting untill we joined Sir Harry Smith's camp at the Orange River on the 19th of August, thus being 22 days on the road which I should think was about 330 miles as we averaged about 15 miles a day—I forget whether I mentioned in my last that as this was all thro' friendly country I enjoyed the March very much. We had plenty of Shooting along the road not only of Birds but of the Antelope and Gnu. We were also well supplied with Milk, Butter, Eggs, etc., at different farms not that you must think the farms like England for those are generally speaking about 15 or 20 miles apart and therefore it was the usual way to march from one farm to another, the reason of their being so far from each other is the want of water, and from which I can assure you the troops have suffered most dreadfully. We arrived at the Orange River camp where we found the General and some other regiments had arrived and the Boers lying in position on the opposite bank. They however retreated from their position suddenly one night and left us to cross the river unmolested into their country which we commenced doing next morning at Daylight. . . . It took 5 whole days crossing the force over and as hard work as ever I saw . . . during those 5 days Sir Harry Smith never left the side of the River from daylight to sundown superintending the business himself. . . . Sundown on the 5th day saw everything safe over and the first dawn on the following morning we were in full march on this place, Bloemfontein, which is the little town the Boers drove the English from and sent them all the other side of the river. We marched the first two days without anything extraordinary happening and on the 3rd day (29th August one month from the day we left Fort Hare) we marched as usual at day light, We went about 10 miles and halted for breakfast at some water. After Breakfast we moved on again about 11 o'clock A.M. and we had gone about 4 miles, when on entering a sort of pass with rocky Hills on both sides we were saluted by a Tremendous shower of Bullets, but which luckily for us fell mostly short, the Boers being so impatient that they could not wait till we came well within range. The Artillery were Immediately formed into Battery, the Infantry to ascend the

Hill the Boers were on, and the Cavalry to get on the flat which leads round to the rear of the position ; well, in this order we were brought into action, and the Infantry had the Rifle Brigade on the right, the 45th in the Centre and 91st on the left. The Guns kept up a heavy fire over the hill, while we rushed up it the best way we could. On gaining the top we saw the Boers going across a small flat between us and another stony ridge which they took possession of and answered our fire with vengeance. We lay thus for about 10 Min. firing like mad, when Sir Harry Smith rode up and seeing that we had recovered breath after taking the first position, he called on us to give 3 cheers, fix bayonets and advance, which I need hardly say was obeyed instantly. It was coming down this hill and crossing the flat at the double that we suffered most from the fire of the rebels from behind the second position, two or three Min. saw us at the foot of the Hill and we lay down a second time for breath. Up the Hill again and on reaching the top saw a repetition of the last, *viz.*, the Boers taking possession of a third Hill, but this time we had a small river between us. The guns had now taken up position on the first hill we were attacked from and threw shell over our heads on to the third hill on which the Boers were, to cross the second flat and gain the foot of the last position was the work of a few moments, but at the river many poor fellows fell as they stopped to drink. I had three men wounded within 10 yards of me, as I was imploring them to move on and not to stop to drink. We gained the last Hill and saw the Rebels in full retreat across the next flat which extended for Miles—they were followed by the Cape Corps and the Guns but as the Boers are always Mounted they could not get at them. The guns tho' sent some shells after them, which did some damage. We then formed up again and marched on for 10 miles before we halted which we did at Sun down. . . . Sir Harry was wherever the firing seemed to tell most and when he saw a few falling and their comrades stopping to look at them he would ride up and shout ' forward, boys, forward ' ! We moved on the same night about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 o'clock in hopes of catching the Boers, but after a march of 20 miles we could see nothing of them, we halted about 10 o'clock A.M. and I slept almost from then until daylight

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next morning. . . . We arrived here yesterday when the General took formal possession of Bloemfontein by firing 21 guns and ordered a halt today, the first rest we have had since we left Fort Hare. 1 officer and 60 men remain here and the rest of us march at daybreak tomorrow for Wynberg which is where the Boer camp is supposed to be and which is about 80 miles from here. A General Court Martial which sat here this Morning has sentenced two prisoners to death, one of them I am sorry to say is a deserter from our Regt. who was taken at the Action, the other is a Boer. We are all to parade in the morning before we march to see it carried in effect, and I can assure you the idea of it has so upset me and my hand shakes so, I had a good deal to do before I could bring myself to write to you—I would rather fight Boomplatz over again than go to parade in the morning. . . . I hear as soon as everything settles up here that the 45th is to be quartered here, I hope it will be the Case as this place is alive with Game and Lions to be found a mile or two from the post. We had Divine service read this Morning by Sir Harry Smith after which he made us a long speech and thanked us in the name of the Queen and the Duke of Wellington for our Conduct. . . . He has offered £1000 for the head of Pretorius the head rebel and smaller rewards for the other leaders. Pretorius was present himself with about 1000 men at Boomplatz. . . . I must say adieu now, dear Mammy, as I have many little things to settle before dark such as getting clothes mended would it could be done by your dear hands—I hope you will be able to read this for I (am) afraid I have made many many mistakes. I must acknowledge I am a little nervous today, I wish tomorrow was over.”

Three weeks later he writes to his elder brother :—

“ There was one part of your letter that puzzled me very much and that was—wishing me out of the 45th. If he will tell me any other Regt. *more* distinguished or any one act by which the fighting Forty Fifth have ever disgraced their Colours I am willing to leave them—As for the officers I am the best judge of the present set and better *brother* officers there could not be—I think even in our last little battle with the Boers the fact of the 45th having double the number of

Men Wounded will show in what part of the field we were—I do not say this from vanity but just to show you whatever——’s opinion may be I have mine. I shall write to him when I have nothing to do and give him my opinion of a regiment I have now been with for two years. . . . After our action at Boomplatz We paraded at daylight when the two prisoners taken at Boomplatz were shot—It was my first Military execution, I trust my last, but from the present state of the world I fear not—We marched strait from their graves to Wynberg.”

In his next letter to his mother, dated October, 1848, William Fleming gives a sketch of his domestic arrangements and sporting pursuits :—

“ The Queens Fort which was begun here last month is just finished. . . . They are to commence the barracks soon but I have no interest in that as B. and I gave 20 pounds for a very nice house here with a sitting room—a bed room for each of us off it—two Spare rooms and a kitchen with a servants Room off it and a yard both before and behind the house. I would value the whole thing at about 100 pounds but the way we got it so very cheap was—the Ground within 400 yards of the Fort was to become Government Property and none to live on it but Military, this house happened to be within the Ground and belonged to a Civilian so B. in the Capacity of Commandant had to order the Man to quit and in doing so told him he would give him £20 for it which the owner thought better than nothing—B. then very kindly told me If I liked I could share it with him Paying half which I jumped at as I think that every month one lives in a tent in this Country is a year off your life—the sun bakes thro’ them so in the Day.

“ So you see that I have become the Part owner of a house, the only thing is that its standing on Government property we can sell it to none but Govt. servants. We have also a Hen house and 20 hens and another little house in the Yard which makes a Kennel for our Dogs—B. has 9 Pointers and I have 3, so you may fancy we want a Kennel. Every day I am not on Duty I am out shooting somewhere and Really it is past description—You can see the Antelope or Deer from the door—But the shooting I like most is the Guinea Fowl—

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they are exactly the same bird as used to run about Coomb Grove tame—when they see you they rush into the Cover and then you go in and get them up with the Dogs and upon my word I cannot fancy finer shooting.

“B. shot a lion the day before yesterday but as luck would have it I was not with him—he killed him a very few miles from here. To give you an Idea of what Nimrods we become in the wilds of South Africa 4 of us have subscribed and sent home for 100 lbs. of Gun Powder between us. The Ostriches are dreadfully wild—I got within a mile of one the other day on the flats on horseback but as to get within shot it is quite out of the Question. The way the Traders get them is watching for their nests and then stealing on them in the Hills when they are sitting on the nest at night and even then you must send a bullet well into them before they stop running. . . . I hear from Mrs. — occasionally from King William’s Town. —She writes me such kind letters which is very nice to know you have one lady friend in a strange land—I have been scribbling just as if I was talking which I think is much the “jolliest” way of writing. . . . God bless you all.”

A December letter is addressed to his brother Francis :—

“I was indeed sorry to hear that Mamma had been suffering but however all right again ere you wrote—you must not let her puddle in the garden so much—And insist on this from me—Wait till I come home and I’ll make her take care of herself—in the meantime if I hear any more complaining I shall feel it my duty to write to her—issuing Regimental Orders as to the number of hour’s employed each day at the Hard Labor of picking up snails etc—and appoint you Lance Corporal to see that the spirit of the orders are fully carried out—Give her all these Impertinent Messages together with my dearest love. . . . I need not say when my turn come to go to Sandhurst how gladly I will embrace the opportunity of returning to England altho’ just at present (don’t be offended now) I would not leave this post if I could till I see a little more of the wild sports—It baffles all description. The day before yesterday I started at dawn to see what I could get—about noon I broke the leg of a fine old Bull Gnoo—I then chased him for about 5 miles across the desert as hard as ever

my horse could go before he stood to bay—he then turned round—and put his head down determined to defend himself to the last—when a bullet between the eyes from my other barrel settled him. This is the second one I have shot—I cannot explain to you the excitement of killing one of these or in fact any of the wild animals, and the satisfaction of seeing a Wild Bull as it were lying dead at your feet away in the lone desert and the feat of killing him quite unaided—I have also killed two Bley Buck which are about the size of donkeys and stand to bay when wounded—The Spring buck which are about the size of the deer you see in Parks at home I have killed a good number of—I take the field tomorrow morning again, in fact I make it a point to go out as often as I can as it is sport I shall never again get.”

To his “Dearest and Beloved Mamma” he writes on St. Valentine’s Day, 1849, a letter full of personal touches :—

“I well know that the first question of a fond Mother is after her absent son ; I will answer it at once by saying that I am as usual in the best health and could not be happier except by your side. I am now approaching the age of Manhood and I know of no young man that has better reason to be thankful than I have. I have been placed in a profession I love, a Regiment I like, sent to a climate that fortifies one’s constitution for a worse, I hope to be promoted before I am of age, and I have a brilliant future open to me. . . . I have made one rule which I know will give you pleasure, I mean I daily find an hour to read my Bible generally at night when all are gone to bed, and although I candidly confess that at times I read parts of it more from principal than pleasure I trust the day will come when it will prove the most interesting of all works. . . . I have become quite a Nimrod since quartered in Bloemfontein generally spending 5 days in the 6 either hunting the Wild Animals or shooting. The latter I do not care about so much as the former as bird shooting is to be got all over the world but wild sporting to perfection only in the interior of Africa. Since I came here in September last I have killed 36 Wild Animals consisting of Gnoo, Hartbeest, Zebra, Hyena and Antilope. The greatest number of course are of the last named sort on account of their flesh being so

good, the others are only hunted for the sport. I find I derive two great advantages from this sort of amusement, one is that the hard exercise agrees with me and the other is that the fatigues of the day always offer a good excuse for not joining any night shindies. . . . I am at present reading Maxwell's History of the Irish Rebellion of '98 and which I find most interesting. I can hardly credit some of the cruelties he accuses our poor countrymen of. . . . I hope James's success at school continues, his time for entering Cambridge is fast approaching, I begin to fancy myself a man when I talk of a younger brother at Cambridge."

The happy change which has come over the habits of the private soldier during the last sixty years is curiously illustrated in the following passage :—

"There is one subject has puzzled me much since I have been in the Army and that is the extraordinary manner in which the British Soldier drinks—His only pleasure seems to be a glass of Grog and never happy till he is drunk. The many rewards held out in the shape of Promotion, Good Conduct Pay and Pensions seem to have but little effect, a man gets drunk, takes his punishment and as soon as released he is drunk again. A Glass of Brandy and Water is a very reviving drink after a hard day's work or a long march but the unaccountable way in which soldiers drink off glass after Glass is and ever will be to me a mystery. I regret to say that of late there has been a good deal of it going on among our men, who were all steady enough when they could not get it in Camp in Kaffirland but directly the drink is within their reach it leads to other crimes which in their sober moments soldiers never dream of. However I will say one thing for the 45 men that sober or drunk they are most respectful to their officers."

The letter concludes with references to the Blue Frock Coat, the garment which like a variable star has been for so many years appearing and disappearing, and to his ever increasing love of sport :—

"Is it not a great pity that they have done away with the Blue Frock Coat in the Infantry, one of mine which I have worn very little indeed is now quite useless to me and I do

not know what sort of a jacket it can be made into. There is no doubt that altho' it is the prettiest dress in the service yet it is a most absurd one, in consequence of being a different colour from the men it makes the officers very conspicuous in any fighting. The way I have come to wear mine so little is that during the Kaffir war there was an order that no officer on any account whatever was to appear in blue.

"I often think if I got my choice to go home tomorrow I should be like a donkey between two bundles of hay. I go to bed and perhaps dream all night about dear home and fancy myself in some happy scene amongst you all again and when I awake I feel so disappointed and wonder how it is that I can have got thro' three years without seeing you. Then again after breakfast when I get on my horse and go out surrounded by such beautiful herds of nature's creatures I feel I could not leave such a country without regret. I really think I may conscientiously say that I never wished to be a rich man until I saw this part of the world, but then I did long to have a few pounds at my disposal in order that I might make a trip into the interior and visit the Elephant and the Giraffe in their wild haunts."

In April, 1859, the 45th returned to England, and William Fleming retired from the service by the sale of his commission.

XI

THE SANDHURST MEMORIAL

ON 9th April, 1921, the Colonel of the Regiment sent home from Gibraltar fifty signed letters, for circulation to retired and seconded officers, appealing for subscriptions towards the £100 requisite for the erection of a tablet in the new Memorial Chapel at the Royal Military College. The Tablet was to bear the names of thirty-eight Sherwood Foresters who had passed through the Royal Military College as cadets, and had laid down their lives during the late war. At the same time he wrote to the officers commanding both Battalions and the Depot.

In a little over two months £110 had been promised or actually subscribed; and a few weeks later the Memorial Tablet was in the engraver's hands.

Considering the great number of subscriptions which the late war has bequeathed as a legacy to the average officer, the immediate response to this appeal was remarkable. It is thought, therefore, that a short description of the Royal Military College Memorial to those ex-cadets who fell in the war will not be out of place in the Regimental Annual.

Different people hold widely divergent views as to the value of war memorials in the form of buildings or monuments; but it is suggested that a tablet in the Royal Military College Chapel is a form of war memorial which can hardly fail to satisfy the feelings of all. Such a memorial is a living memory of those of the Regiment who have gone before, to be read by those, during their time as cadets, who will follow after. Would any Sherwood Forester like to feel that cadets who join the Regiment in years to come had thought that we were any less proud of our dead than other regiments?

When the question of a Sandhurst Memorial was first considered, it was decided that the most suitable memorial to those four thousand ex-cadets who had laid down their lives in the war, would be a memorial chapel. It was further decided that the existing chapel should be made use of—by converting it into the central portion of the proposed new building. It must here be borne in mind that the then existing chapel was quite inadequate to the needs of the largely increased number of cadets in the College—scarcely half of the total of seven hundred being able to be seated at any one service.

It was hoped that a Government grant for the purely structural part of the enlargement would be obtained; but the Government grant was not forthcoming. In consequence, last summer a Fête and Gala was held to raise funds with which to pay for the new east end, then nearing completion. A net profit of £5800 was obtained, with the result that the new east end, shown in the photograph, is now paid for. It was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 5th May.

Fifty regiments have already promised or presented memorial tablets, eight of which can be seen in the photograph. Our Regimental Tablet will be erected in the new east end, just behind the chaplain's stall on the right-hand side of the photograph.

The old chapel runs at right angles to the new east end, and a further £7000 is now required to convert it into the central portion of the new chapel. Until this money is raised much of the memorial and decorative work for the interior—already promised or paid for—cannot be proceeded with.

The book shown on the *prie-Dieu* in the foreground of the photograph contains a list, by regiments, of all ex-cadets who fell in the war—four thousand.

The following is the list of names of Sherwood Foresters appearing in the book, which will also appear upon the Regimental Tablet, in the order in which they died.

Lieut. L. A. Bernard.
2nd Lieut. R. D. P. Milner.

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 „ J. V. Earle.
 „ P. M. Murray.
 „ G. E. Burdekin.
 Capt. C. S. C. Kennedy.
 2nd Lieut. C. E. Blurton.

On the Tablet, above the names, will be the Regimental Crest ; below, the following inscription :—

“This Tablet has been erected by past* and present officers of the Sherwood Foresters, to the glory of God, and in proud memory of the officers of the Regiment whose names are inscribed hereon.”

* The chaplain, the Rev. H. W. Blackburne, is a brother of Major J. G. Blackburne, whose name appears on the tablet and who was killed with the 9th Battalion at Suvla in 1915. He asked to be allowed to subscribe, and did so most liberally. With this solitary exception all subscriptions came from past and present officers of the Regiment.

W. D. S. B.

XII

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OR NARRATIVE OF A SOLDIER.*

I came across this book in a bookseller's catalogue. I tried to buy it, but unfortunately I was too late. It was secured by Major C. E. W. Wood, late of the North Staffordshire Regiment. He very kindly not only lent me the book, but gave permission for extracts to be reproduced in our Regimental Annual.

The book appears to be very scarce. It is not mentioned in the Bibliography at the end of Professor Oman's *Wellington's Army*.

W. H. W.

WILLIAM BROWN was born at Kilmarnock in July, 1788. His parents were poor, and had six children—four sons and two daughters. The youngest boy died in childhood, but the other three all became soldiers. The eldest took part in the capture of Martinique, and died in the West Indies. William was the second. The third was invalided out as the result of sickness contracted on foreign service.

At six years of age William was sent to school, but he was very soon taken away and sent to work in a woollen-mill, where he at first earned 1s. 6d. a week. He states that as a boy he was very fond of reading, and that by the time he was twelve he had read a great deal considering his youth. A few years later he tried to enlist at Glasgow, but he was rejected by the doctor.

In 1807 he was working at Paisley, when he heard that there were great bounties going for anyone who joined the Militia. Accordingly he enlisted in the Argyleshire Militia, and received a bounty of forty guineas, which he very soon got rid of. He spent six weeks at Inverary, and then (with 60

* *The Autobiography or Narrative of a Soldier*, by William Brown, late of the 45th Regiment. Kilmarnock, 1829.

other recruits) joined his Regiment at Aberdeen. He served for twenty months in the Militia, and in April, 1809, he volunteered for the 45th Regiment.

After volunteering, William Brown remained another month at Aberdeen. He then embarked together with ten others to join their Regiments. Six were for the 10th Regiment and the other five for the 2nd Battalion of the 45th, which was quartered at Nottingham.

On the sixth day the party landed at North Shields, and proceeded to Newcastle by road. They then marched via Durham, York and Hull, and reached Nottingham on the thirteenth day after starting from North Shields. Brown describes the composition of the 2nd Battalion at this time in the following words: "The Regiment I had now joined was composed of a heterogeneous mass of old men and boys, all either English or Irish, with the exception of one man, who was a countryman of my own."

In August, 1808, a draft of 100 men was called for to join the 1st Battalion in the Peninsula. Brown volunteered. Next day the draft left Nottingham, and marching via Leicester, Oxford and Winchester, reached Portsmouth in ten days. They sailed on "a charming afternoon in August," and reached Lisbon after dark on the eleventh day. Next day, being September 7th, 1809, William Brown landed in the Peninsula.

The draft remained at Belem for eight days, and then left to join the Regiment. The first two days' march was quite uneventful. "On the third morning, as the party were sitting on a bank in front of where they had lodged during the night, waiting the arrival of the officers from the village in which they were quartered, a man and woman were seen on the opposite side of the road, busy at an oven baking bread. A few of the men went over to purchase some, amongst whom was an Englishman of the name of Horsley. This man was by habit and repute a thief, and had received 300 lashes for stealing, a short time before he left England. On his arrival at the oven he instantly seized a loaf with each hand; which a number of the party perceiving, also leaped over the road and attacked the oven, some endeavouring to draw the bread in the usual manner, while others damaged

the sides, and tore the roof down, in order to get at it from the top. In a few minutes the frail tenement was levelled with the ground, while the poor owner made piteous lamentation, invoking the vengeance of Tudas los Santos on the depredators. The officers coming up, and seeing part of the fray, secured a few of the most active, amongst whom was Horsley, the first aggressor, who, on joining the Regiment, received a sound flogging. The affair being adjusted by the Major giving the Portuguese some remuneration for the loss he had sustained, we marched off." The next march brought the draft to Elvas, and on the following day they joined the Regiment at Campo Mayor, which was situated within ten miles of Badajoz.

Two months later the 3rd Division marched north. The Regiment passed through Portalegre and Niza, crossed the Tagus at Villavelha, and then proceeded via Penamacor to Pinhel, a town a little north of Almeida. At Pinhel Brown was seized with fever, and sent down with a party of 300 sick belonging to the 3rd Division to the General Hospital at Coimbra. Five weeks later he was one of a party of 400 who were sent down the Mondego in boats, and embarked on a transport to be taken to Lisbon. At the end of ten days the transport had not sailed, but Brown had recovered and was discharged from hospital.

"Thirty more being put on shore at the same time, we were quartered for the night in an old lumber garret, where, in turning over some empty casks that lay on the floor, a large hole was discovered, through which a wine and spirit store was seen underneath. This being a temptation we were neither able nor willing to resist, canteens, pack-kettles, etc., were immediately put in requisition, and one of the party descending, filled them all with good old rum, which soon made us forget the bad treatment we had experienced for some time past.

"Next morning, thinking it necessary to replenish our canteens for the march, another descent was made by one of the party, who was but a short time down when the door of the vault opened, and in walked a Portuguese. Our man, with all possible speed, made for the aperture in the floor, and had so far gained his object, that some of us had hold

of his arms. Ere we could get him up, however, the Portuguese laid hold of his legs, when such pulling and hauling commenced, that the poor fellow was in danger of being drawn and quartered. At last our party succeeded in rescuing the man from the grip of the Portuguese, who went away in high dudgeon, to report the affair to the Commandant. On hearing this, the sergeant who had charge of us, thought proper to march the party off, which arrived at Coimbra the following day.

"I remained a month at the depot in Coimbra, and at the expiration of that period, was in company with 700 more sent to join the army, which we did in a few days, and found it nearly in the same position as when I left it. The 45th Regiment, however, had removed from Pinhel, and lay detached in several villages in the neighbourhood. The company I belonged to was quartered, with two others, in the village of Managota, under the command of Major Smith, an experienced and gallant officer. . . .

"A green that skirted one side of the village, served at once for drill ground and a church. The Major being in the habit of reading prayers to us on Sunday, the detachment regularly turned out in full marching order. After Divine Service he generally put us through a smart field-day, and then piling arms, the whole had to strip and plunge into the river that winded past the green. There we remained till the bugle sounded; then emerging from the water, formed into line on its banks, where our commander made a strict inspection, thus acting in the triple capacity of commander, doctor for the body, and physician for the soul.

"In Managota and other villages in the neighbourhood we passed the whole of the spring and part of the summer of 1810 in peace and plenty. In one of these villages I had an opportunity of witnessing a full display of the powers of a gormandizer, by a man of our own company. The fellow was a native of Nottinghamshire, a kind of half-wit, and greatly famed as a bolter, even by his countrymen. One day, while sitting at the sunny end of a house, with five or six others, amongst whom was this glutton, the quarter-master-sergeant joined us, who, after some conversation, inquired of David, 'If ever he got a *blow-out* now?' 'Not

so often as I would wish,' was the reply. 'Well, David,' said the sergeant, pointing to a quantity of bread that lay on the floor of an old barn, which was used as a provision-store, 'how many of these loaves could you eat if you had your will of them?' The loaves were three pound weight each, and David eyeing them very eagerly said, 'It is not long since I got my breakfast, still I think I could *yam* a few of them.' 'Well,' said the sergeant, 'I will give you a quart of wine to each loaf, to wash it down; so begin, and let us see what you can do.' Upon this David commenced the game, which proved dear to him, although most excellent sport to the bystanders. In rather more than an hour he finished four loaves, and swallowed as many quarts of wine, which, with his breakfast, amounted to $13\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread, four quarts of wine, and one of chocolate, all swallowed in the course of two hours. When he had done, he sat and stared as if his eyes would have started out of their sockets, and was totally unable to rise. The bread he had eaten being made of rye, and newly baked, swelled him to such a degree that he was in great danger of bursting, and made him groan both long and loud. Some spoke of rolling him, which was immediately commenced on a green in front of the barn, but he roared so loud and hideously, calling upon God and Pharaoh King of Egypt alternately to assist and save him, that it was dropped. His belly was then rubbed with grease and oil, but not producing the desired effect, he was carried to the hospital, where he lay several days before recovering. For this the sergeant got a severe reprimand from the Commanding Officer.

"About this time five men of our Grenadier Company were condemned to death for a highway robbery. They had attacked a Portuguese peasant and his wife when on their way home from a fair that was held in a neighbouring village, and had taken what little money they had and other articles. Horsley was one of them, and was, even under the sentence of death, as incorrigible as ever. The execution of the sentence being delayed from time to time, the prisoners were kept in charge by the Provost Marshal's guard, where Horsley had the address to rob a French Officer, who was a prisoner, of his watch and money. When spoken to about it, he told the Provost, with the greatest nonchalance, that he did not

care when he was executed, provided he was allowed a canteen of rum two hours previous to his exit.

"On August 20th our Division, commanded by General Picton, recrossed the Coa, and on the afternoon encamped on the left bank of that river, on a line with the road from Almeida to Cellorico. . . . Being for duty, I was sent with a sergeant and 12 men to a considerable distance in front of the camp, and a little before dusk was posted overhanging the river immediately in my front. . . . At daybreak, being drenched with rain, I was walking smartly about, in order to keep myself warm, expecting every moment to be relieved, when my attention was attracted towards Almeida, by a tremendous explosion, the smoke of which darkened the whole atmosphere. This proceeded from the blowing-up of a large magazine, by which more than one-half of the artillerymen, a great number of the garrison, and many of the inhabitants perished. The guns were dismounted, and their works being no longer defensible, an immediate surrender took place, and all the troops in the garrison became prisoners of war.

"In a few minutes after this misfortune, our outposts were withdrawn, and upon joining the Division, which was under arms, we immediately marched off. Passing Cellorico, we that night encamped, and next day reached Mala, where we remained a few days. Leaving this village, we continued to retrograde until the 26th of September, when Lord Wellington took up a position on Busaco hill. This hill is part of a sierra, or chain of mountains, of considerable height, which extends from the Mondego, in a northerly direction about eight miles. Our Brigade, commanded by General M'Kinnon, was stationed on one of the highest points of the ridge, while the rest of the army was posted to the right and left, with a strong corps of reserve in the rear. On the morning of the 29th a most desperate assault was made on our position. The whole of the French Army advanced in columns, and attacked our lines from right to left. Thrice the Division under Marshal Ney ascended the hill on which General M'Kinnon's Brigade was posted, but was as often repulsed at the point of the bayonet, with great slaughter. During the whole day the battle continued to rage with various success. . . . At last,

part of our reserve being brought up, the enemy retired, leaving 2000 dead on the field, an immense number of wounded, and about 300 prisoners.

"The loss of the British on this occasion was very considerable; and although the victory was claimed by us, we had not much to boast of. The Regiment to which I belonged suffered severely. The brave Major Smith, while gallantly leading on the left wing to the charge, saw with sorrow and regret half of the Regiment entirely cut off, while he was himself pierced with a number of the enemy's bayonets, and fell mortally wounded. Major Gwyn, an intrepid officer belonging to the Regiment, was severely wounded in the groin and rendered unfit for active service, but was afterwards employed for a number of years as Field Officer of the Recruiting District in Glasgow. Three captains, with a number of subaltern officers and about 400 rank and file were lost to the Regiment."*

"The execution of Horsley and his companions having been still delayed, they, during the engagement, broke from the guard that had them in charge, and joining their Regiment, behaved so well during the action that Lord Wellington was graciously pleased to grant them a pardon. One of them lost an arm in the battle and was sent home to England, where he received a pension. Horsley after all died a natural death in Portugal, at least if hunger and fatigue can be so denominated.

"On the evening of the 28th, being still on the same ridge, and near to the ground where the action was fought, orders were issued to light as many fires as possible, which being done we immediately marched off in the dark. Travelling the whole night, we passed through Coimbra next morning, where having crossed the river, the bridge was blown up in order to retard the progress of the enemy, who were in close pursuit of us. At Condeixa we were in quarters during the night, and left it early in the morning, accompanied by the

* The losses of the 45th are given by Dalbiac—"Busaco" in Annual for 1911—as Major Smyth, Capt. Urquhart, Lieut. Ouseley, and 22 rank and file killed; Major Gwynne, Lieut. Harris, Lieut. Tyler, Lieut. Anderson, and 106 rank and file wounded, and 12 rank and file missing. The total strength present being 595 of all ranks.

whole of the inhabitants, who were flying from the enemy. Next morning the Brigade lay in the convent at Pombal, where the monks were busy all night in preparing for the road in the morning, and who opened their wine and provision stores to us, with which we made ourselves very comfortable and happy.

"By the time the Division reached Leiria, the road was so crowded with the flying inhabitants that the troops could scarcely move on. It was a most distressing and lamentable sight, to see a whole people leaving their houses and homes to the fury and rapacity of the cruel invaders. . . .

"On reaching Leiria, we were, as usual, quartered in a convent, where the monks, like their brethren at Pombal, opened their stores to us, which caused abundance of was-sailing the whole night. Being not to march so early as usual, I walked into the town, which I found in the utmost confusion. Most of the inhabitants had left the place, and the soldiers commenced the work of plunder. . . . Such is the fate of a country where war spreads his desolating wings. The inhabitants are robbed and plundered by friends and foes, and fall an easy prey to the victors and the vanquished.

"Leaving Leiria, we proceeded on our march in the direction of Lisbon, at which port it was generally believed we would embark, as the necessity for evacuating the country appeared to be very pressing. . . .

"In the course of this day's march, we passed a wine pipe by the wayside, in which was a soldier, in an inverted position, fully accoutred, with his knapsack on. Probably when reaching for liquor he had overbalanced himself, and thus drowned his cares in wine at the expense of his life. At night we encamped as usual, marching early next morning ; and in a few days after reached the lines in the vicinity of Torres Vedras."

Shortly after this Brown was seized with fever. He was sent down to Lisbon, where he spent three months in hospital, and then went to the barracks at Belem. On completely recovering his health he formed one of a party of 800 men who were embarked on a frigate to be conveyed to Figuera. On board he found the second surgeon of the Regiment, who took him on as a servant. All went well till the frigate

reached the mouth of the Mondego ; but, before the troops could be landed, a violent storm arose. The captain ordered the cables to be cut, and put to sea. The hatches were battened down for forty-eight hours, and it was six days before the frigate regained Mondego Bay. Even now the troops were not at the end of their troubles, for they spent thirty hours on lighters without food or shelter, before they got ashore.

A march of two days brought them to Coimbra. The surgeon was detained for ten days at Cellorico to attend the sick, and he was then ordered back to Coimbra with a party of 300 invalids. Thus it came about that Brown remained at Coimbra for three months. At the end of this time the two of them left Coimbra, and after passing through Pombal, Abrantes, Villa Vehlá and Castel Branco, they joined the Regiment at the village of Al de Defont. A few days later the 45th moved to Albergaria, just over the Spanish frontier and within a few leagues of Ciudad Rodrigo.

EL BODEN.

“ Intelligence having been received that a great quantity of provisions, ammunition and other stores, escorted by a strong convoy, were on the road from Salamanca to Ciudad Rodrigo, intended for the supply of that place, it was determined we should advance and endeavour to intercept the enemy before they reached their destination. . . . On the 5th September, 1811, we passed Rodrigo, putting that fortress in a state of blockade. The Division was put into cantonments in several villages, where we remained during the day, but in order to make sure of our prize we encamped (*bivouacéd*) during the night. On the 21st the French advanced in great force from Salamanca. . . . On the morning of the 25th the French attacked and drove in the light posts on the left of the British lines. . . . This morning we were not permitted to return to our quarters as we had hitherto done, but making a retrograde movement, were drawn up on a height above Rodrigo, with that fortress directly in our front. We soon perceived issuing from the town a strong column, consisting of 35 squadrons of cavalry, followed by 14 battalions of infantry, the whole supported by 18 pieces

of cannon. With this overwhelming force the enemy made a furious attack upon the left Brigade of our Division, when the greater part of the Portuguese Brigade of Artillery, attached to the Division, were taken. . . . The 5th Regiment, having made a prompt and gallant charge, almost immediately retook the cannon, along with some prisoners. Finding it impossible to cope with such a force, and no reinforcements near, being some leagues in advance of our army, we formed squares by Regiments, and retired unbroken before the enemy.

“A more singular spectacle than that we now exhibited perhaps did not present itself during the whole war. While retreating the French advanced corps surrounded us on all sides, but being inferior in numbers, did not dare an attack, only endeavouring to retard our progress as much as possible until the main body would come up. They kept so near, however, that on riding past one of them struck my elbow with his foot. When marching across the plain from El Boden, the enemy, on a rising ground on our right, brought their cannon to bear upon our squares, which annoyed us considerably. But keeping the most admirable order, though for two hours surrounded by our enemies, we at last arrived in the vicinity of Fuente Ginaldo, where part of our army having come up, the French fell back.

“By this day's encounter the Division had several killed and wounded ; while at the same time the enemy carried off a quantity of our stores and baggage, together with the greater part of the women belonging to our Brigade. Their co-mates, however, did not seem deeply affected at this circumstance. The same night when seated round the fire, an Irishman, who had lost his wife, being condoled with on the occasion, replied, ‘Faith, boys, I would not have cared a straw about it at all, at all, but Jenny the b——h has got my pipe away with her !’

“We continued in camp the whole of the next day, during which the greater part of our army arrived. It was then expected we would engage the enemy, who were still in our view, but when evening was come we marched off, and continued to retreat the whole night. Next morning we halted to cook some victuals, which we immediately set

about. Numbers were employed hewing wood, while others were drawing water, and not a few kindling fires and getting the kettles in order. In the midst of all this preparation for breakfast, the enemy, whom we imagined had been deceived by our nocturnal movements now menaced us with an immediate attack, when we stood to our arms, and were once more obliged to decamp. After retreating about half a league we halted, and forming line advanced under cover of the artillery, which were posted on a height in front of the village of Alfeatte. The enemy sustained the attack with great courage and intrepidity, and continued to fight for two hours bravely. At length British valour prevailed against all opposition; the French fell back, and were pursued by our cavalry and light troops to the banks of the Aguada. The enemy then filed off towards Salamanca and Placentia, and our army went into cantonments.

"At this time our Brigade was quartered in a small, mean, dirty village; and being extremely crowded, our situation was very uncomfortable, while our allowance of bread was by no means calculated to improve it, being curtailed from sixteen ounces to eight, and that of mouldy biscuit. . . . When we had been a few days in quarters the women, who were taken in the late affair at El Boden, were escorted to our outposts by a party of the enemy's cavalry, and were thus again restored to their loving husbands. Many a coarse joke and broad surmise were passed regarding the treatment they had experienced during their captivity. In a short time our Regiment left this detested village and returned to Albergaria, where we occupied our former quarters. In Albergaria the Regiment remained three months.

CIUDAD RODRIGO.

"On January 6th, 1812, the Regiment proceeded on the march, during a heavy snowstorm which continued nearly the whole day. . . . On the following day we crossed the Aguada and took up our quarters in a village 2 leagues east of Rodrigo. Next day, being the 8th of January, it was announced to us by an order from the Commander-in-Chief that, in order to execute the plan of operations he had formed, it was necessary to gain possession of Ciudad Rodrigo, which

we were now on the eve of investing ; and on this arduous and important occasion he felt assured we would signalise ourselves like men and Britons, as we had done in former times. A severe frost having set in, which rendered the season unfit for camp, the Divisions engaged at the siege were to remain in quarters, and take the duty twenty-four hours alternately. On the evening of the same day a detachment of the Light Division stormed and carried the redoubt on the hill of St. Francisca. . . . In consequence of this success our troops were enabled to break ground within 600 yards of the place, and notwithstanding the heavy fire of shot and shell from the garrison, continued to push on their operations with great vigour.

“ On the 11th of the month, and third day of the siege, our Division took its turn of this hazardous duty. At our quarters was heard the sound of cannon growling like distant thunder ; but as we approached the scene of action it became loud and discordant. On our way thither the road crossed a height, from which we descried the city of Rodrigo. . . . From this height we could perceive thousands of our troops busily employed in deepening the trench, strengthening the breastworks, and rearing batteries, that were to open a passage into the town, from the ramparts of which issued volumes of smoke and fire. . . .

“ As we approached the trench I began to reflect on the fatigues and dangers my inconsiderate folly had exposed me to—a cold clammy sweat bedewed my limbs ; I got sick at heart and, in a word, sincerely wished myself at home. . . . These reflections, I must confess, partly arose from fear, and from the novelty of the scene I was about to be engaged in, for a siege is a very different affair from a field engagement. On entering the works an accident occurred, which was in no way calculated to allay the perturbed state of mind I then laboured under. When passing two Portuguese soldiers, who were carrying a box of ammunition, a shell from the enemy alighted on their burden, by the shock of which they were thrown to the ground. The box was shivered to pieces, and its contents strewed about, amongst which the bomb continued to whirl a few seconds with amazing rapidity ; then with a horrible crash it exploded, by which nineteen

men were killed and wounded. This was an awful spectacle. Some of the sufferers were dreadfully scorched and burned by the explosion of the powder, while others were shockingly cut and mangled by the pieces of shell that flew in all directions. One man lay completely decapitated, his head being some yards distant from his body. I was not long in the trench, however, until I recovered my natural buoyancy of spirit, and laboured at throwing up a breastwork, which was oftener than once levelled by the shot and shell of the garrison. During the day I was several times literally buried with the earth thrown up by the bursting of shells. A considerable number were killed and wounded, although not near so many as I anticipated. After being twelve hours exposed to eminent peril and hard labour, we were at midnight relieved by the other half of the Division which, during the day, had been stationed in the rear, and occupied their ground for the night.

"Our next turn for duty being on the 15th, we moved on to the scene of action, but being for the night work, we remained in camp until evening. I was attached to the covering party, which consisted of three companies, and sent in advance of the works, there to remain until daylight. The ground we occupied was a hollow that intervened between our batteries and the town, being about 100 yards distant from either. Our duty here was to keep a sharp look out for the enemy, and in case of a sortie by the garrison, to give an immediate alarm. Along the side of the town we occupied was stationed a cordon of double sentinels, with orders to be on the alert, but at the same time to keep stretched on the ground, for fear of a discovery by the enemy, and to be relieved every hour by the companies in the hollow. I was posted along with a young Englishman, who might be about my own age, with whom I lay close for some time, viewing the astounding scene, a scene which none but those that have been similarly situated can form a just conception of. On each side were employed about 50 pieces of heavy cannon, the balls of which passed over our heads with a hideous noise, spreading death and devastation wherever they went. . . . While thus engaged, my companion started to his feet, at the same time swearing he would suffer to be shot

rather than be frozen to death, lying on the ground. We therefore rose, and after walking about some time a volley of grape-shot fell amongst us, when my companion exclaimed, 'Oh, God! I am wounded; run for assistance to carry me off.' Having brought up from the hollow an N.C.O. and two men, it was discovered the wounded man had received a shot in one of his knees, which had broken the bone and shattered his limb considerably. He was accordingly carried away by the sergeant and one of the men, while the other, an Irishman of the name of Murphy, was left with me as a substitute for my former associate, who was scarcely gone, ere another volley of grape annoyed us, and my new companion fell to the earth exclaiming, 'Ah! by Jasus, I am killed!' When assistance was brought it was found that the ball had entered his head behind the left ear. Being still alive he was carried off, and a third man left to bear me company during the remainder of this eventful hour, in which thirteen volleys of murdering grape fell amongst us, from the whole of which I had the happiness to escape unhurt. The hour being at length expired, we were relieved from our perilous position and joined the companies in the hollow, which were withdrawn at daybreak.

"It was generally supposed that the breaches would be practicable by the 19th, which was our next day for duty; and it was expected our Division would have the sole honour of storming the town. In this we were partially disappointed, for on leaving our quarters the Light Division were seen coming down from their's. This circumstance, however, assured us we were to participate in the glory of wresting from the enemy one of the strongest fortresses on the Spanish frontier. Being thus confirmed in our expectations, every heart beat quick in the anticipation of high daring, this being the first essay made by the British troops in the Peninsula to storm a regular fortification. . . .

"When arrived at the camp ground, a covering party was sent to the trenches to keep the enemy in play, while the remainder bivouaced in the vicinity until evening, when the whole prepared for action. A short time after dusk the troops, in five different columns, composed of the Third and Light Divisions of the Army and of General Pack's Brigade,

were ordered to advance. The Light Division was to gain the rampart on the opposite side of the town by escalade, while the 3rd Division, under General Picton, was destined to storm the breach. On debouching from the trench, the enemy received us with a most galling fire of musketry, round shot and bombs; notwithstanding we advanced at double-quick time to the outer ditch, and were about to leap into it when a magazine near the breach blew up with a tremendous explosion, by which a great number of our men were blown to pieces. By this dreadful catastrophe I lost my eyelashes, which were completely singed, and my whole face was scorched by the sulphurous flame. For a few seconds I was deprived of the power of vision, and in this state was pushed into the ditch by the troops that now came rolling on like a flood. We then ascended the breach amidst a shower of earth, stones, bones and rubbish, which had been raised and whirled into the air by the explosion. After an arduous contest the rampart was gained, when the enemy retired to the adjoining houses, and commenced firing from the windows, while a strong body of them remained on the street. These were charged by our men in the square, or market-place, where they were met by another party, pursued by the Light Division. On perceiving themselves surrounded they threw down their arms.

"Thus, in the short space of ten days, one of the strongest holds on the Spanish frontier was taken from the enemy. The loss on both sides was very severe. . . . The chief of our Brigade, Major-Gen. M'Kinnon, having led his troops up to the breach, was unfortunately blown up by the explosion of the enemy's magazine, and Major-Gen. Craufurd was severely wounded.

"Numbers endeavoured to indemnify themselves by plunder. No sooner was the enemy disarmed than all seemed intent on having something for their trouble. The houses, which were in general shut up, were soon broken open, to the ruin of the terrified inhabitants, who stood aghast while they saw their houses pillaged and their property carried away by their friends and allies, the generous British. Some, more outrageous than the rest, proceeded even to greater extremities by insulting the men and subjecting the wretched

females to that, which to mention would make humanity shudder and wound the delicate ear of virtue. All order and subordination for the time being lost, I spent the early part of the night in rambling the streets, which were crowded by our men, many of whom were deeply intoxicated. . . . Others, again more provident, or perhaps more covetous and rapacious, groaned under loads of spoil, which to any but themselves appeared vain, as they were not able to carry them off.

“At last, getting among some of our company, I entered a house with them, the inhabitants of which were absent, having most probably fled from the horrors of the time. There not being sufficient room for us on the hearth, a fire was kindled in the midst of the apartment, around which we got seated, and being supplied with abundance of brandy and wine, which was brought up in large water-buckets from a cellar immediately underneath, we all got as merry and happy as belted knights. . . . Neither was cooking forgot—materials for which lay around in abundance. A quantity of flour was made into cakes, each something more than an inch thick, and laid on the fire to harden. A large brass kettle full of rice was likewise put on to boil, with a variety of other things. Four whole hams of bacon were laid on at once, from which issued a spiral blaze that nearly reached the ceiling above. In the midst of all this preparation for festivity, the floor, which was composed of wood, gave way—when, as if by enchantment, the fire and all that was on it disappeared, and ‘like the baseless fabric of a vision, left not a wreck behind.’ All who were able made a scramble for the door, which having gained, they looked back with astonishment on the sudden change of affairs. Those that were left on the floor, insensible to the danger they were in, were seized by the heels and dragged out, their heads coming thump on the steps as they descended the stairs. Next morning we assembled on the camp ground, and about midday returned to our quarters.

BADAJOZ.

"We had been only a few days at rest when we were ordered to Badajoz, a strong fortified town of Spain, distant from Rodrigo 150 miles. On the 15th of March we crossed the Guadiana by a bridge of pontoons, and the same day took up our ground before Badajoz, on the left bank of that river. On the evening of the 17th operations were commenced on the N.W. side of the town, which happily was not discovered for some hours by the enemy, when the parties at work were comparatively under cover of the breastworks.

"My master having been during the night engaged in his professional duties in the trenches, I went with breakfast to him in the morning, when the garrison was keeping up a heavy fire on our works. Just as I had spread a cloth on the ground and in the act of laying out the breakfast materials, a shell from the enemy alighted on the breastwork immediately in our front, which exploding, covered both master and man with the earth it threw up. We crawled out as well as we could, looking very sillily at each other, without, however, sustaining any injury, except the loss of breakfast, which was buried in the earth. On the second day of the siege the weather became broken and rained very heavily for about eight days, which was a great annoyance to the men, who stood the whole time in the trenches, to the knees in mud and water. On the 19th, as I lay on the tent floor, I heard an unusual firing at the works, and the cry of 'Sortie ! a sortie !' was heard from all quarters. Immediately standing to our feet, every man seized his pouch and musket, and without orders rushed to the works. The enemy consisted of 2000 men, part of whom had actually entered the trenches. Amongst the rest I perceived one fellow, a grenadier, with a handful of iron rods and a hammer, with which no doubt it was intended to spike our cannon, but they were soon driven into the town with considerable loss, when a heavy cannonade was commenced from the ramparts. On leaving the trenches a man of our company had a narrow escape from a cannon ball which passed over his head, so near that it took away the crown of his cap as neatly as if it had been

done with a knife, and so dexterously that the cap was not removed from his head.

"Whether a presentiment, or foreknowledge of things in the womb of time, be given to some or not, I cannot determine; but an occurrence happened at this time which almost made me a convert to the belief that there was. One morning, when the parties turned out for work, a grenadier belonging to our Regiment betrayed great reluctance to go to the trenches, declaring he would never return. Being an old soldier, and having seen much service, in which he never evinced any symptom of fear or cowardice, but was well respected in the company, on seeing him so disheartened, one of his comrades, who was cook for the day, volunteered in his stead, provided he would act for him in his absence; which offer the poor fellow joyfully accepted. At the dinner hour he went to the works with the men's victuals, where he remained until they had finished their meal; but when rising to come away, a shell from the enemy fell at his feet, which instantly bursting, a large piece struck his body and laid him completely in two.

"On the 25th at the distance of 600 yards, our artillery opened their batteries and continued to bombard the town with a heavy and most destructive fire. On the night of the same day, a detachment, consisting of 700 men, from our Division, stormed and took Fort Picarina, a strong out-work, nearly in line with our batteries. . . . No sooner were they masters of the place than the garrison from the town turned their guns upon it, by which a great number of our men were killed and wounded. Amongst whom was Brigade-Major Wade, who was killed by the bursting of a shell. He was a brave, gallant and valuable officer.

"By the 6th of April three breaches, which were regarded practicable, were effected, and Wellington determined to commence the assault that night. Our Division, under General Picton, was ordered to attack the castle by escalade, which was considered the most dangerous point of attack. . . .

"At ten o'clock at night our Division left the camp and proceeding towards the Castle of Badajoz, the rest of the Divisions followed close in the rear. Having filed through the trenches we gained the main road, along which we moved

in the most profound silence. This was a most impressive and interesting moment, being now on the very point of assailing a strong fortress which was immediately in our front. . . . Not a sound nor a voice was heard, but the monotonous "gauda vow" (*sic*) of the French sentinels, which was incessantly echoed round the ramparts. Even the firing had ceased on both sides—the murdering and deafening roar of cannon, which had for twenty-one days and nights been employed in ruin and destruction, had given place to the anticipation of more close and perilous combat. All around a dead and death-like silence prevailed. . . . The impetuous garrison now hurled death and destruction on their assailants, who rushed forward with the utmost intrepidity. From the blazing ramparts, which now seemed enveloped in flames, issued volleys of round-shot, while numerous bombs winged their way through the air, alighting with fatal precision amongst our troops. We were now crossing the broad moat, filled with water, in which the bullets fell so fast as to resemble a shower of hail, and where all that were wounded perished in the liquid element, while showers of grape and cannister continued to pour from the town. Numerous fire-balls were thrown out by the garrison, in order to show in what direction we were advancing; then hand-grenades were poured forth in appalling numbers on our men, the van of whom had now gained the covered way, and were making great exertions to break down the outer palisading, which being at length effected, they gained the ditch.

"Our Regiment, being on the right of the Division, might be termed the Forlorn Hope, and suffered accordingly. The point at which we descended into the ditch was between two bastions, from both of which we experienced a most dreadful fire of musketry; while from the body of the wall the enemy continued to pour, by means of boards placed on the parapet, whole showers of grenades, which they arranged in rows, and being lighted with a match, the whole was upset, exploding amongst us in the ditch with horrid destruction. Coils of ropes, in a friable state, strongly impregnated with tar, pitch and oil, were likewise employed by the enemy as a means of annoyance, which completely answered the purpose intended by scorching and scalding numbers in a

dreadful manner. Two men of our company received each one of these coils upon their head, which next day exhibited a horrid spectacle. From the extreme swelling that ensued the whole of the skin burst and came off their head and face. They were deprived of sight for a long time after, but both ultimately recovered.

"The ladders, by some mistake, were not brought up in time, and the period passed while waiting for them I shall never forget. The fosse was full of men, and the remainder continuing to pour in so condensed the whole that we stood in great danger of being crushed to death ; while the flanking fires from the bastions and the destruction that fell from the parapet above, were beyond description.

"The men fell like stubble. At one time three that were wounded had hold of me, endeavouring to prevent themselves from falling, which was certain death, and which I had nearly participated with them, for borne down with their weight I was fast sinking. A number of ladders being brought up, however, caused a general movement when I extricated myself from their grasp. Our men rushed up the ladder with the greatest impetuosity, but when near the top the whole broke down, and all that were on them were precipitated on the points of their comrades' bayonets, by which many received their death. We were then ordered to unfix our bayonets and sling the firelock on our shoulders, which being done, and a number of ladders brought, we immediately began to ascend. The ladder I chanced to be on was laid to the bottom of an embrasure, in which were a number of the enemy ready to receive us, and in front of them stood an officer with a pistol in each hand ready cocked. On the ladder a Grenadier officer of our Regiment preceded us, who, when his head was nearly on a line with the enemy's feet, was fired at by the officer in front. Missing the contents of the pistol he instantly gave his opponent a back slap across the legs with his sabre, who fell over into the ditch. Our officer then leapt into the embrasure, cutting down all that opposed him, and was immediately followed by the men, who became directly masters of the rampart. The enemy retired beyond the court of the castle, to a gateway that communicated with the town, where a number of prisoners

were taken. All endeavours, however, to get into the town proved of no avail, so that we were obliged to remain in the castle during the night. . . .

"When the garrison surrendered, leave for two hours was given us to go to the town, camp or wherever we pleased, but the town was universally preferred. All rushed to the gate that communicated with it, which caused a deal of noise and squabbling, for the enemy had built up the gateway as a means of defence, leaving only a narrow passage, through which but one man could pass at a time. They all, however, got to the town soon enough for the poor inhabitants, who were by many of our men shamefully and barbarously treated. There was not, I believe, a house in the whole town that was not ransacked from top to bottom—murder, rape and robbery were committed with the greatest impunity. The first building I entered was a church, which the French had occupied as a provision store, and was at the time well filled with bags of flour, bread, biscuit and leaf tobacco. On one side were piled casks of liquor to the very roof. Each soldier, as he entered, seized one for himself, and having set it on one end, staved in the other with the butt of his firelock, then knelt down and drank what he pleased, which in many cases was not a little. In a short time numbers got intoxicated, when all became confusion and uproar. The casks were upset, and the liquor poured on the floor until the church was nearly knee-deep, into which some in their folly threw themselves, that they might have it to say they had swam in rum, brandy and wine. During the day I entered many genteel houses, all full of our men, who were busy pillaging ; and what could not be carried away they in mere wantonness destroyed. But all this was harmless, and might be termed as nothing when contrasted with some of the atrocities perpetrated in this devoted town. Happening to go through the passage of a genteel house I got into a small court, surrounded by stables and other offices belonging to the house. Looking round the place I perceived a man apparently naked, walking to and fro in one of the buildings in front of me. Prompted by curiosity I stepped towards him, and having asked how he became reduced to the state he was in, he informed me that being master of the house he had

endeavoured to repel the lawless aggressions of my comrades, but being unable to withstand such numbers, they had stripped and turned him out of his own house, which they were then busy plundering. As I stood commiserating his misfortunes and ashamed of the rapacity and cruelty exercised by my countrymen, two of the 88th Connaught Rangers made their appearance, who coming forward, audaciously demanded from the Spaniard his money. The poor man solemnly protested he had none; that they might perceive he had no means of secreting anything about his person; that his all was gone; his house had been robbed and plundered; his property carried away and destroyed; himself stripped and turned out of the house, which called him master, and into which he durst not enter, as it was still occupied by the depredators. But all this was lost upon the two ruffians: he might as well have told his misfortunes to the winds. They still insisted he had money hid, and if he did not immediately produce it they would find means that would make him glad to do so. This threat they put into immediate execution by coming to the charge with their firelocks, and holding the points of their bayonets to the naked man's breast, who, with despair in his looks, still declared his inability to give what they wanted. Seeing things coming to a crisis, I began to remonstrate with the villains on the absurdity of demanding a thing they might see the poor man had not to give. They immediately turned upon me like two hell-hounds, swearing by Jasus I had nothing to do with it at all, at all, and if I did not keep myself aisy they would run me through. As if in defiance of the remonstrances I continued to make, and the threat of reporting their conduct to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, they seized the Spaniard, and dragging him forth, plunged him headlong into a deep draw-well that was in the centre of the court. Sickened at heart, and detesting the depravity of such murderous wretches, I left the place. In going through the passage I heard a great noise in the house, which I entered, and found it full of soldiers who were tearing and turning everything upside down. By the fire-place was seated a respectable old woman, whom I considered the mistress of the house, and the wife of him I had seen murdered. On

her knee she held a child of some months old, which, in the midst of all the noise and tumult that surrounded it, apparently enjoyed a calm and serene sleep, while its nurse cried and sobbed bitterly. Poor woman, thought I, you have enough before you here to grieve for, but you little know the extent of your misery and loss. But this is not your child—you are too old to be the parent of such an infant—I will ask where its mother is and try to console the old lady in her calamity. Thus thought I, as I stood near the door; but endeavouring to pass those that were on the floor, I happened to turn myself round, when—oh! horror of horrors! I saw, laid on a bed, a young woman, whom I immediately conceived to be the mother of the babe, surrounded by demons in human shape, who were gratifying their unbridled and sensual appetites, at the expense of everything held sacred, and violating the laws of God, of nature and of man. One fellow held up in triumph a pair of red morocco boots he had torn from her feet; while another wretch displayed a rich necklace he had stripped from her bosom. But I turned from the revolting scene in disgust, and rushed out of this most unfortunate and ruined house.

“Determined to leave such a scene of riot and outrage, I proceeded along the street, in which were exhibited every crime that could render man contemptible, and disgrace human nature. At last arriving at the ground of the preceding night’s encounter, a very different scene presented itself from that which I had just left. There lust and rapine were perpetrating every crime, and at the moment trampling upon every principle sacred and civil, moral and religious; at that very instant, were the demons of rage ruining everything held good and virtuous, destroying the properties and violating the rights of every family, and of every habitation. But here reigned a still and solemn silence; not a sound was heard, not a voice arose to disturb the awful pause, save the faint groans of the wounded and the dying. . . . Amongst the slain I saw many of my comrades and associates, with whom I had travelled many a long and weary mile. Some with whom I was intimately acquainted, and with whom but yesterday I had conversed freely, now lay stretched in their gore.”

SALAMANCA.

"The enemy having retired into the interior of Spain, our army was put into quarters on the frontiers, where we remained until the beginning of June, when the whole army crossed the Aguada, and on the 16th arrived in the vicinity of Salamanca. . . . The 6th Division, being left to invest the forts, our army occupied the heights in front of the city, while the enemy retired in the direction of Toro, but on the 19th again advanced on Salamanca, when a variety of skirmishes took place. . . . Upon the capture of the forts the enemy fell back in the direction of Toro and Tordesillas, and passing the Douro, took up a position on the N. bank of that river. Our army was on the opposite bank. While in this position the men composing the two armies bathed in the river promiscuously, mingling with one another with the greatest confidence and cordiality. But operations of the first magnitude and events of the greatest importance were now approaching. . . .

"After a variety of evolutions, about two o'clock on the afternoon of the 22nd, Marmont under a heavy cannonade, extended his left and moved forward his troops with the intention to embrace the position of Arapiles, which our army occupied. . . . This extension and advance upon our right gave our commander an opportunity of attacking him, for which he had long been anxious. The grand attack began at four o'clock in the afternoon, and was irresistible. The troops on the left, commanded by General Pakenham (*G.O.C. 3rd Division*), gallantly supported by the Portuguese cavalry and two squadrons of the 14th Dragoons, overthrew everything that opposed them, defeating completely every attempt of Marmont to retrieve the disaster on his left. . . .

"During the action, as our Brigade was marching up to attack a strongly posted column of infantry, a furious charge was made by a body of cavalry upon our Regiment, and not having time to form square, we suffered severely. Several times the enemy rode through us, cutting down with their sabres all that opposed them. Our ranks were broken and thrown into the utmost confusion. Repeatedly our men attempted to reform, but all in vain—they were as often

cut down and trampled upon by their antagonists. At length, however, the enemy were driven off by some squadrons of our cavalry, who came up in time to save us from being totally destroyed. Numerous and severe were the wounds received on this occasion. Several had their arms dashed (*sic*) from their shoulders; and I saw more than one with their heads completely cloven. Among the rest I received a wound, but comparatively slight, although well aimed. Coming in contact with one of the enemy he brandished his sword over me, and standing in his stirrup-irons, prepared to strike; but pricking his horse with my bayonet it reared and pranced, when the sword fell, the point striking my forehead. He was, however, immediately brought down, falling with a groan to rise no more. . . .

"Next morning, after the battle, our victorious army commenced the pursuit of the enemy, who in dismay fled towards the Douro. . . . The Allies continued to advance, and on the 30th they entered Valadolid. After various severe skirmishes and a long march, rendered very fatiguing by the extreme heat of the weather, our army reached the vicinity of Madrid, which the enemy had evacuated, leaving a garrison in Buen Retiero, once a Royal Residence, but converted into a fort by the French. On the 12th of August the Allies entered the Spanish capital amidst the joyful acclamations and benedictions of its grateful inhabitants. Two days after the garrison left in the Retiero capitulated. . . . Madrid was for six weeks occupied by two Divisions, while the remainder of our army were employed at the siege of Burgos. . . .

"The French, under Joseph, had been reinforced with all the disposable troops in Spain, with which overwhelming force they were marching on the capital. . . . Wellington was compelled to raise the siege of Burgos and retreat towards the Douro; while General Hill, after destroying all the military stores which could not be carried away, abandoned Madrid, and marched towards Arevala. On the 29th of November the French troops again entered Madrid, to the sorrow and regret of its inhabitants. General Hill continuing his retreat from Madrid in the direction of Salamanca, several skirmishes took place, in all of which the enemy were worsted. On the 8th of December he occupied Alba de

Tormes, and same day formed a junction with the main army from Burgos, which occupied the heights in front of Salamanca. . . . During the night of the 14th the greatest part of our troops moved through Salamanca. On the following morning our Division forded the Tormes, about a league above that city, and moved down the left bank of the river, in order to gain the road that leads from Salamanca to Ciudad Rodrigo. It was now our sorrows commenced ; the rain that had begun early in the morning descended in torrents. When we gained the road it was completely cut up by the numerous baggage and the whole army which preceded us, for on this memorable retreat our Division formed the rear-guard. We were not long in this puddle, which was nearly knee-deep, ere the majority were barefoot. To add to our distress the enemy's cavalry came furiously upon both our flanks, and annoyed us considerably with a smart fire from their carabines, until a body of cavalry came to our assistance, who kept the enemy at bay, while we moved off as well as we could. Having dragged through this slough of despond until long after dark we filed to the right, and encamped in a wood at a short distance from the road. The ground destined for our quarters during the night was low and flat, and when we stepped over the ditch that surrounded it, we were immersed to the knees in water. This was, to be sure, more pleasant than the mud we had marched in all day, yet it bore a very cheerless aspect when we reflected that it was our bed for the night. Previous to this the hatchets for cutting wood had been thrown away ; but as fires were necessary to preserve our existence the branches that hung over our heads were caught hold of, and by main force torn from the trunks and laid on the ground, until they were above the surface of the water. This was our fire-place, but how to get it lighted no one knew ; everything was soaked with water and the rain still continued to fall in torrents. Opening our knapsacks, each man, for his own comfort and the public weal, contributed something to the furtherance of our object. For my share I gave one shirt, three brushes and a button-stick ; but ere our efforts were crowned with success, forty such lots were consumed by the company. Some will be inclined to think this a very expensive fire,

but such must be similarly situated as we were before they can duly appreciate such a luxury. The worst, however, of all was yet to come. On the morning as we passed the bridge at Salamanca we saw the Tormes choked up with stores that had been thrown over the bridge, that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy. Such care was surely superfluous when thousands were passing with empty haversacks and, I may add, empty stomachs to boot, who would have been happy in carrying what they could of it away. But so anxious were our rulers that none of it should fall into the hands of the French that we were prohibited from touching any part of it; and it is more than probable if any individual had had the hardihood to have done so, the old salvo of four dozen from the Provost Marshal would have been his portion. Be that as it may, we had now the horror of pale famine before us, which to contend with for any length of time was likely to prove a more dreadful foe than the French, who were hanging on our rear.

"Next morning at daybreak we again moved on, and keeping to the right of the road we passed through many woods of oak, the acorns of which were picked up by officers and men and eaten with as much relish as if they had been the greatest dainties. Extensive sandy plains, which we had traversed but a few months before and on which we had suffered much by the intense heat that then prevailed and the scarcity of water, were now literally broad and deep lakes, through which we dashed, the water often reaching above our waist. When we essayed to halt for a few minutes the enemy, who were close on our rear, sent their shot and shell amongst us, so that we were obliged to decamp.

"On the afternoon of this day we encamped in a wood, but were scarcely halted ere the enemy's cavalry made a furious attack, when we moved on until it was long after dark. We then had leave to lie down on the ground, from which numbers never again rose. On the morning of the 18th we were aroused long before morning from our watery beds to commence another day of hunger, hardship and fatigue. Numbers, however, were exempted from this—their toils and pains and dangers were no more—their souls had fled from the scenes of misery and woe into which they had been

plunged, and their spirits had returned unto God who gave them. When the bugle had sounded I awoke from a deep sleep, and found myself embedded in sand and gravel which had been washed around me by the heavy rains that fell during the night. With great difficulty I got upon my feet, but found myself scarcely able to move, while the Division being formed up was ready to march off. . . . As I stood, as it were rivetted to the ground, bewailing my fate, and anticipating evils that were yet to come, I heard the tramp of the Division, which had marched off, getting fainter as it receded from me. For a time I became bewildered in thought; when all at once I was roused from my reverie by the sudden and quiet advance of a large body of cavalry, who were within a short distance of the spot where I stood. A number of poor fellows who were lying around me vainly flattered themselves that it was the last of our rear-guard advancing; but overhearing their language and the often repeated "*Sacra vutre*" (*sic*), I dropped my knapsack, darted into a thicket, and in a moment after I heard the screams and cries of the poor men I left on the ground, who, I make no doubt, were by the enemy butchered in cold blood.

"Making what haste I could I gained the opposite side of the thicket, where my progress was arrested by a broad ditch. Being unable to leap it I endeavoured to sound it with my musket, but could find no bottom. As there was no time to spare, I immediately threw over my firelock, and seizing a long pole that very opportunely lay on the spot I swung myself over, and dashed through thick and thin until I reached the Division, which I overtook when passing a village, where was a large garden well stocked with cabbage. These seemed, as if by a miracle, to have been preserved from all the ravage that preceded us; but which now, as if by a counter miracle, were as suddenly plucked up by the roots, for every man seized a head that could, and shared with his comrades who had got none. As there was no time for cooking, the whole were eaten, or rather devoured, in a few minutes, rough and raw as we found them; and was, I daresay, considered by all the sweetest morcel they had ever tasted. Previous to this the majority had fasted forty-

eight hours, and excepting a windfall like the present had fallen in the way, we were in a fair way of fasting for a much longer period. The acorns, indeed, already mentioned, served the turn with many, but they brought so vividly to my recollection the prodigal son and the husks that they actually stuck in my throat and would not go down. But as a detailed account of the fatigues and hardships which our troops underwent in this arduous retreat might prove tedious, and even uninteresting to many, I will wave the subject. Let it therefore suffice, we reached Ciudad Rodrigo on the 19th after suffering unparalleled and unheard-of hardships. Many men who had been under General Moore during the disastrous retreat to Corunna, avowed they had undergone more fatigue and suffered greater privations on the retreat from Madrid than they had ever done the whole of their lives.

"Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, and the want of provisions, the loss of our army was comparatively small. . . . On reaching the vicinity of Ciudad Rodrigo we encamped, when the enemy stopped short in their advance, and even fell back upon Salamanca and other parts. Our army was then put into Cantonments on the frontiers of Spain, and our Brigade quartered at Fuente Ginaldo.

"We remained eight days in this town, during which I suffered much from the want of my blankets, which I lost with my knapsack on the retreat, and a smart frost having set in, rendered our situation truly miserable. Our Regiment was quartered in the dark cell of a chapel, the dreary walls of which were cold, damp and clammy. This was very uncomfortable lodgings to men worn out with fatigue and hunger; while our fare was still very scanty, and we had no means to procure any more than what was served from the stores. But, indeed, though our pockets had been full of money it would have been to little purpose, for everything was scarce, and what was to be had was at an extravagant price. Bread sold at one dollar per pound, and salt went for half as much, while everything else was in proportion. . . .

"If it had been possible for a dandy volunteer, or even a militiaman, to have got a glimpse of us at this period, it would never have entered his brain that we were the heroes

of the Peninsula, whose victories he had so often seen emblazoned in the public prints. Instead of being the stormers of garrisons and towns, or of being the victors of Salamanca's proud field, our appearance would have made him believe we were deserters from the tombs, or a set of miserable wretches about to be sent there. The whole of my garb at this time consisted of my red jacket, which, during part of the retreat, had no sleeves, having been torn to tatters amongst the bushes and briars, but which deficiency I had since made good, by stitching to the precious article the legs of my only pair of stockings, the colour of which were light blue, forming a fine contrast with the jacket, which by wear and tear was approximating to a dark brown. My trousers, which once belonged to a Frenchman, I picked up in the Retiero at Madrid. They were originally black, but had so often been mended with patches of divers shades that it could not be distinguished. As for a shirt—ah, pauvre homnio!—he had none. A tag of what was once a shirt hung down before and behind, having much the resemblance of a queue, and the whole so stiffened with nits, of so shining a quality, that anyone at a little distance might have thought it richly embroidered with silver lace. . . . Shoes and stockings I had none, having left them far behind on the deluged plains of Leon, but which were soon replaced by new ones. . . . We were but meagrely fed, and as has been already mentioned, most wretchedly lodged. While we were in this place a man of our Regiment, wishing as I suppose to extricate himself from the accumulated evils by which we were assailed, attempted to cut his throat, but was by his comrades prevented from completing it. He, however, had given himself a severe wound under the chin, in consequence of which he was carried to the hospital, where his wound was dressed, and put to bed. Not being satisfied with what he had done, he attempted with a razor to sever his hand from his arm, and before anyone discovered what he was doing he had cut and mangled his wrist in such a manner that the surgeons found it necessary to amputate his arm under the elbow. What his motives were in thus endeavouring to destroy himself he would never explain; but if he expected to get rid of the army by it he was most egregiously mistaken.

When recovered from his wounds he was severely punished, and was retained in the service until the termination of the war. He was in all the fights and feuds in which the Regiment was engaged—a sufficient punishment—being obliged to stand and be shot at, while he was unable to defend, or avenge himself on his enemies. . . .

“Owing, as it was generally supposed, to the hardships and privations we had lately undergone, we had not been long in quarters when a most malignant fever made its appearance amongst us, by which in a short time numbers were swept away. The nature of the disease being so fatal and contagious, men could not be got to attend the sick, and it was found necessary to take the first for duty. By this expedient I was compelled to attend one of the wards in hospital, which duty I managed above three weeks, but was then seized with the distemper. My head was immediately shaved and blistered, but being insensible, and in a high brain fever, I tore the plaster off and threw it out of the window. Another was directly applied, while my hands were secured down by my sides ; in which state I lay several days. Six weeks elapsed before any symptom of recovery appeared, at which period I was so weak and emaciated I could hardly walk across the room. . . . When perfectly recovered I was discharged from the hospital and quartered on a family, in tolerable circumstances, with whom I remained the whole time we lay in *Momento*, and was regarded and treated as one of the family.”

(To be continued.)

XIII

THE GRAND TRUNK ROAD

By "MUSAFIR"

"Truly the Grand Trunk Road is a wonderful spectacle. It runs straight, bearing without crowding India's traffic for fifteen hundred miles—such a river of life as nowhere else exists in the world . . . the green-arched, shade-flecked length of it, the white breadth speckled with slow pacing folk."

THAT is the Grand Trunk Road as Rudyard Kipling has visioned and describes it to us in *Kim*; but probably to-day few English men and women pass along it, preferring to be carried more swiftly and easily to their destinations in the *rèl-gharri*, or to be whirled along their road in the *motor-kahar* and clouds of dust. Of the European sojourners in India the Grand Trunk Road is travelled for the most part by the men of British regiments marching in relief from one cantonment to another; and since these moves take place exclusively in the cold weather, the Grand Trunk Road at other seasons of the year is abandoned to such travellers as "Kim" met when journeying with his Lama from Lahore to Benares in search of the River of the Arrow—the holy man, the fair-going villagers, Hindu or Mussulman, the wedding party, the dâk-runner and the carters with their much-complaining hackeries.

And to one who in the past has travelled that road with many cheery companions it is good now and then to look back along the tree-shaded way where the milestones seem further apart now than they did in "the Roaring Eighties," when it was bliss "in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven." Of those companions, some lie among the stony hills of the North-West Frontier, where nothing marks their graves lest the tribesman disturbs their poor bodies in impious anticipation of the Last Great Bugle Call; some are buried in South

Africa, some in China ; while the plains of France and Flanders have taken a heavier toll of those who until lately survived than did the passes of the Pyrenees and the uplands of the Crimea of those who in the past served the Old Regiment before them. " And some there be which have no memorial, who are perished as though they had never been."

Is there anything comparable in later life with marching and camping in India when all the world is young ? To leave the cantonment, the immediate neighbourhood of which for three years has been your horizon's boundary, and, played out in the early morning by the band of a friendly regiment, to swing along the Grand Trunk Road with all your possessions packed in a two-bullock hackery creaking behind the last company, and with no care in all the wide world except possibly a passing fear lest the fox-terrier, blinking on the bedstead slung on the cart, may be jerked off. Behind the tamarisks the sky is paling from sepia to saffron, and already from the mud villages comes the distant " thud, thud," which tells that the women are astir and have begun the daily task of grinding the corn for the household. As day is breaking, the regiment reaches the halting-place, to which overnight some of the native establishment have gone on and have there prepared tea and buns for the rank and file ; while just off the road, away from the dust raised by the column, and under the shade of some trees, the Officers' Mess has set up a table where, having seen the wants of their companies in progress of being satisfied, the officers congregate. In the old days before the country was reclaimed and drained and put under cultivation to the extent that it is now, the *jheels* along the road—some of them wide expanses of reed, mud and water—supported in the cold weather large colonies of snipe, duck and teal ; and permission was to be had to leave the line of march and rejoin on arrival in camp, having enjoyed some very pretty shooting and secured some duck for the Mess, and perhaps a fat black buck for the company's cooking pots.

For the regiment moving in relief along the Grand Trunk Road the marches were rarely over-long ; the camp was reached before the sun was high and before, too, there was any sting about it, and the camping grounds were always clean and often shady. It did not take long to pitch the big E.P.

tents, and then, except for an inspection of arms, all ranks were free to do pretty much as they liked for the rest of the day ; and the guns which an indulgent Government issued to each company of British infantry were in great request, and some weird fowl were brought into camp by the fortunate sportsmen. In India the brilliant day is suddenly followed by black night, and the men and officers gather round a big camp fire, the warmth from which is welcome enough, and the usual performers oblige with the old favourites, which are received as though to-night heard positively for the first time.

At many of the camping grounds there are not wanting signs that the British Army—or some of its units—has halted here before, has camped upon this spot and has moved on, leaving one of its number behind it. Under a spreading mango tree there may be a mound of earth, washed almost level, perhaps, by the rains and floods of the last monsoon, and on the tree trunk will be found nailed a board with an inscription saying that here lies Gunner Atkins, and giving the manner and date of his death. The grave will always be kept in tolerable order by the villagers of the neighbourhood—they will not suffer it ever to be ploughed up or to become levelled or obliterated ; but with the British regiment occupying for one day that camping ground it is ever a point of honour to put the lonely man's grave in order, to erect a new cross, to repaint the notice on the board hanging on the tree and perhaps to put up a neat fence round it before the " Fall in " sounds next morning and the regiment marches off, when perhaps for another year what is left of Gunner Atkins resumes its solitary vigil.

The regiments, British and Indian, which march along the Grand Trunk Road from north to south, and south to north, are treading the same path as those who before them have travelled the way of invasion and victory, of retreat or retribution. It has drawn armies along it to battle, and the cities which border it have been assaulted and sacked, and the fields by which it passes have been watered by the blood of the warriors, from the passes of the north, from the plains of the Deccan or from over the Black Water, who have fought and died there. Panipat has been the scene of two great battles at least, and the second of these was fought almost on the

very day when Pondicherry fell to Eyre Coote and the die was finally cast as to which nation, French or English, should rule in India. Panipat has been described as "an extensive level tract, broken only by insignificant risings of ground; here and there the shallow soil, moistened by some scanty stream, yields a niggard growth of coarse grass and stunted bushes. But, for the most part, one sees only the yellow-grey of the barren land. Everywhere a silent void, as if the plain were intended by Nature to be the battlefield of nations." Here it was that in January, 1761, two great nations, the Afghans and the Mahrattas, met in battle, when the Mahrattas were overthrown and upwards of 200,000 of them perished by the sword.

When the great Mutiny of 1857 broke, it was by way of the Grand Trunk Road that reinforcements arriving in India from over the sea were passed to the skeleton armies operating against Delhi and Lucknow. The railway at that time was only open as far as Raniganj, one hundred and twenty miles from Calcutta; and the remainder of the journey to Allahabad, the base of all operations against the rebels, could only be performed along the Grand Trunk Road, which was infested by bodies of mutineers and rebel hordes. It was along this ancient way that Havelock fought through to Cawnpore, his men hoping against hope that the God of Battles would grant their prayer that they might be "in time."

From the north also did reinforcements move rapidly down country, and the march of the Guides from Mardan to Delhi was one of the foremost achievements of the war. They left Mardan on the 13th May, only six hours after the receipt of orders, were at Attock, thirty miles distant, next morning, and marching along the Grand Trunk Road for three weeks at twenty-seven miles a day, they reached Delhi on the 9th June—and went straightway into action.

The stretch of Grand Trunk Road from Cawnpore to the north of Delhi is full of the romance of war and redolent of the suffering that war brings with it to the innocent. It has been watered with the blood and tears of Englishwomen, and has witnessed many deeds of matchless daring in the days when our rule in India seemed almost at an end. And those who would be reminded of great deeds should read what

Captain Trotter has to say about Hodson's wonderful adventures when carrying despatches from General Seaton to Sir Colin Campbell along the Grand Trunk Road.

"The Sun was driving broad golden spokes through the lower branches of the mango trees ; the parakeets and doves were coming home in their hundreds. . . . Swiftly the light gathered itself together ; then the night fell, changing the touch of the air, drawing a low, even haze, like a gossamer veil of blue, across the face of the country."

That is the night upon the Grand Trunk Road ; but for my part I prefer to remember it when India is awake, when the dawn is at hand, when the tents are struck and packed, and the best of all possible Regiments has marched from the *parao* and has taken to the Road again—as it was in the beginning and ever shall be.

" Yet long ago that merry march began,
His feet are older than the paths they tread,
His music is the morning song of man,
His stride the stride of all the valiant dead,
His youngest hopes are memories—and his eyes
Deep with the old, old dream that never dies."

XIV

WHERE ARE THE BOYS OF THE OLD BRIGADE ?

SINCE the issue of the last Annual the following changes have occurred in the establishment of the Depot and the whereabouts of some of our Old Comrades. Fortunately, not many have answered the "Last Roll Call" during the past year.

If any comrades have any news for publishing in the next Annual, I shall only be too pleased to have it sent to me or take it in person at the annual dinner.

I can assure all Old Comrades of the best wishes of the staff of the Regimental Depot for their future welfare.

Yours sincerely,

T. P. THOMPSON,

R.Q.M.-Sergt.,

Depot the Sherwood Foresters.

Changes in the Personnel of the Staff of the Depot during the past year :

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| C.S.M. Sadler, G. J. | . . . | Discharged to pension after 21 years' service. Now employed at Messrs. Players, Nottingham. |
| C.Q.M.S. Richards, G. W. | . . . | Posted to Permanent Establishment 8th Battn., Retford. |
| C.Q.M.S. Crowson, W. | . . . | Discharged to pension after 23 years' service. Now working in Sunderland. |
| C.Q.M.S. Martin, W. | . . . | Discharged to pension after 21 years' service. Working at Hanson's brewery, Kimberley. |
| Sgt.-Mr. Cook Barratt, F. | . . . | Discharged to pension after 21 years' service. Now living and working in Nottingham. |

- Sgt. Brittle, F. W. . . . Posted to 8th Battn. Sherwood Foresters, Newark.
- Sgt. Handley, A. . . . Posted to 8th Battn. Sherwood Foresters, Newark.
- C.S.M. Kieran, F. M. J. . . Well known as C.S.M.I.M. of 2nd Battn. prior to War. Afterwards Permanent Staff 8th Battn. Latterly C.S.M. of Recruits' Company, Depot. Now discharged to pension after 23 years' service. Living in Derby.
- C.Q.M.S. Giffen, G. : . . . 1st Battn. and Indian Unattached List up to 1914. Now discharged to modified pension after 19 years' service. Living and working in North of England.
- Sgt. Hope, W. 1st Battn. Discharged to modified pension after 19 years' service.
- Sgt. Dooley, W. 1st Battn. Discharged after 12 years and then joined Territorial Force and served with 5th Battn. through the Great War. Did duty as C.S.M. Defence Force during recent emergency.

They have been replaced by the following :

- T/R.S.M. Walker, F. G. . . Transferred to M.G. Corps during the War. Re-transferred to Foresters on reduction of Establishment M.G.C. Posted to Depot for duty. Now posted to 8th Battn. T.F., Newark as R.S.M.
- T/R.S.M. Laurence, A. E. M. . 2nd Battn. Served with 2nd Battn. and 9th Battn. during the War at Suvla Bay and B.E.F. Gained D.C.M. for splendid work in B.E.F. Now doing duty at Regimental Depot.
- Sgt. Slade, R. Posted from 1st. Battn. for duty. A young soldier but a "good 'un."
- Sgt. George, C. Posted from 1st Battn. for duty. Father was a Clr.-Sergeant in the 95th.
- C.Q.M.S. Hunt, W. (M.M.) . . (Dolly). Served with 2nd Battn. and 9th Battn. Gained M.M. for Bravery in the Field.

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C.S.M. Ward, J. A. (D.C.M.) . Well known as a Signaller with 2nd Battn. Rejoined from Section D on outbreak of War. Served with 11th Battn. in B.E.F. and Italy with great distinction as C.S.M. and T/R.S.M.

Below will be found the present location of old Comrades :

ex-Dmr. Bentley, E. . . Late 2nd Battn. and Depot Staff. Living in Balaclava Road, Derby, and well employed. Has one son who won the D.C.M. with 2nd Battn.

ex-R.S.M. Cokayne, T. . . Well known as R.S.M. of the School of Musketry, Hythe. To commission in Feb., 1915. To retired pay 1920. Awarded O.B.E. for services rendered. Answered the call during the coal strike. Living and working in Jarrow-on-Tyne.

ex-T/R.S.M. Cokayne, A. . . Well known in 2nd and 3rd Battns. Served in B.E.F. with 16th Battn. with distinction and was awarded D.C.M. for Great Bravery. Later was T/R.S.M. of reconstructed 5th Battn. To pension 1920. Now employed on clerical staff of Ministry of Labour.

ex-R.Q.M.S. Clarke, J. A. . . 4747. 2nd Battn. Granted Permanent Commission on outbreak of Great War and appointed to Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Still serving.

ex-L/Sgt. Doughty, A. . . 2nd Battn., well known as servant to Lt.-Col. R. J. F. Taylor, C.B.E., now living and working in Loughboro'.

ex-Sgt. Friend, H. . . Formerly Band of 2nd Battn. To pension 1919. Living and working in Reading.

ex-Sgt. Gunn, A. R. . . (Alonzo). Well known as an active member of the O.C.A. Rejoined in Sept., 1914, and served with 12th, 15th, and 18th Battns. Now employed as Civilian Orderly Room Clerk at Depot.

- ex-Sgt. Goddard, A. . . (Larry). 1st and 2nd Battns. To modified pension after 19 years' service. Now living at Poole, Dorset.
- ex-C.Q.M.S. Grosvenor, F. . . Late Permanent Staff 4th Battn. Saw service in B.E.F. with 16th Battn. To pension 1919, and residing in Nottingham.
- ex-Pte. Hallam, W. . . Son of ex-Clr.-Sgt. A. Hallam. Badly wounded and blinded in 1914, P. of W. Now successful poultry farmer under the "Arthur Pearson Scheme."
- Sgt. Hallam, F. . . Brother of above. Now Orderly Room Sergeant of 1st Battn.
- ex-R.S.M. Hollis, F. . . 2nd and 3rd Battns. Now steward of the Comrades of the Great War Club, Sadler Gate, Derby.
- ex-Sgt. Jullien, W. H. . . Formerly 1093 1st Battn. Sgt.-Mr. Shoemaker. Living in Melbourne. Was Sgt.-Mr. Shoemaker of 4th Battn. during War. Now Civilian Mr.-Shoemaker at Depot.
- ex-Sgt. Lowndes, G. . . Late 1st and 2nd Battns. Served with 9th Battn. during the War. Re-enlisted pensioner. Died at Spondon, June, 1921. Buried with full military honours by Depot.
- ex-R.S.M. Mountenay, W. . . Formerly R.S.M. of 8th Battn. Newark. Now to pension after 22 years' service.
(D.C.M.)
- ex-Q.M.S. Mason, T. . . (Dinkey). Was Orderly Room Sergeant of 1st and 2nd Battns. Discharged to modified pension and employed at the British Cellulose Coy., Spondon, in Special Weaving Industry. Mentioned in Despatches L.G.
- ex-L/Sgt. Marston, W. . . 1st and 2nd Battns. Well known as a good Regtl. Policeman in 1st Battn. To modified pension after 18 years' service. Living in Derby. Cemented the "Entente-Cordiale" by marrying a French lady from Harfleur.

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- ex-Bd.-Master Moull, J. Band-Master of 2nd. Battn. for 8 years. Retired to pension and owner of a prosperous business in London.
- ex-Pte. Marshall, W. 2nd Battn. and Permanent Staff Depot. A good all-round sportsman, and a very popular referee in local matches. Also officiates as linesman in 1st League.
- ex-Pte. Morley, Joe 2nd Battn. and Depot. A fine all-round sportsman. Killed in action with 2nd Battn. 1914.
- ex-Pte. Mellors, W. Well known as Storeman of Lr. H Coy. 2nd Battn. Came up smiling when the A.R. were called for coal strike. Has very good employment in civil life.
- ex-R.S.M. Nicholls, J. Well known as R.S.M. of Depot. Discharged to pension 1902 after 30 years' service. Died in May, 1921, of a lingering illness at Manchester.
- ex-Pte. Orders, J. 2nd Battn., now employed on Railway Detective Staff M. Rly.
- ex-C.S.M. Phillips, T. Well known in 1st and 2nd Battns. Served with great distinction in B.E.F. and gained "Russian Order of St. George." Very badly wounded. Now employed with M.R. Coy., Derby.
- ex-L/Cpl. Ruddle, W. F. Served in B.E.F. with 10th Battn. for 2 years. Well known in the Depot as "Old Bill." Discharged Medically Unfit and granted temporary pension. Now on clerical staff of Ministry of Labour, Derby.
- ex-C.S. Renwick, W. L. Late Permanent Staff 4th Battn. Served during War with 15th Battn. Now Captain and Qr.-Mr. of 8th Battn., Newark.
- ex-R.Q.M.S. Skinner, E. Better known under Regtl. No. of 456. Employed with Messrs. Players and Sons, Nottingham, and is Captain and Qrmr. of 7th Battn. ("Robin Hoods").
- ex-C.S.M. Tomalin, A. W. Well known as Band-Sergeant 2nd Battn. Afterwards C.Q.M.S. and C.S.M. of D Coy. To pension after 23 years' service. Employed with clerical staff, Ministry of Labour, Derby.

- ex-Pte. Tyers, J. . . . Formerly servant to Major Evans in Matabeleland and to General Sir F. C. Shaw. Now hall keeper, Drill Hall, Derby.
- ex-C.S.M. Terry, A. . . . Late Permanent Staff 4th Battn., well known as a fine swimmer and gymnast 1st Battn. Now proprietor of flourishing hostelry, Nottinghamshire.
- ex-C.S.M. Turner, J. . . . 2nd Battn. also Band, was P. of War. Now to pension and doing very well.
- ex-R.S.M. Troops, A. . . . Well known as R.S.M. of 2nd Battn. Granted Permanent Commission in Sept., 1914. Afterwards P. of War. Now Captain and employed as County Recruiting Officer, Derby Zone. Finds good recruits for the regiment, and is a most enthusiastic Recruiting Officer.
- ex-C.Q.M.S. Wood, T. . . . Served on War Time Engagement of Depot. Was a most excellent C.Q.M.S. and very popular. Now employed with M.R. Police, Derby.
- ex-Sgt. Wincup, W. . . . Late Civilian Orderly Room Clerk of 3rd Battn. Now acting in like capacity to 5th Battn. T.F., Drill Hall, Derby.

XV

THE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1920

THE Ninth Annual General Meeting was held in the Arboretum Rooms, Nottingham, on the afternoon of the 4th December, 1920, prior to the Dinner.

Brig.-Gen. J. W. G. Roy, C.M.G., presided, and was supported by Brig.-Gen. P. Leveson-Gower, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major C. D. Harvey, D.S.O. (the President of the Executive Committee), and other officers. There was an attendance of nearly one hundred members, who followed the proceedings with very keen interest.

The minutes of the last General Meeting were confirmed as read, having appeared in the Annual Report for 1919.

The Secretary and Treasurer submitted the following report on the year's work :—

GENERAL WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

“ In submitting the report of the work of the Association, for the period from our last Meeting to the end of November of this year, I think I am justified in saying that, although there is still much headway to make before we reach our pre-war pre-eminence, there has been some substantial progress made during the period under review.

“ Certainly, we have not achieved the dimensions, numerically, which some of us had looked for when our ranks were opened at the last General Meeting to all ‘ Foresters ’ ; but, considering the fact that at that time our membership was only 257, and that to-day it has increased to 650, there has, at least in this particular, been some progress made ; and I am of opinion that a steady increase, if maintained, is more preferable than a sudden large influx, which would, perhaps,

in some measure at least, tend toward our losing that fine spirit of comradeship which characterised our Association when originally formed. I therefore see no necessity for being disappointed in that our numbers are not larger ; but would nevertheless appeal to each member to lose no opportunity of bringing our Association to the notice of those whose sentiments and sympathy are of the ' Sherwood Foresters ' type.

" Speaking financially, the statements of accounts, completed to the end of September, will prove, I think conclusively, that in all probability we have reached high-water mark—perhaps the highest we may hope to reach. We have been very fortunate in having officers commanding Service Battalions, about to be disbanded, who have remembered our need, and have generously supported us when the opportunity presented itself ; and in this connection I would like to make special mention of the good work done by General Roy, who has been untiring in his efforts to get in touch with those who had funds for disposal. The thanks of the Association are due in a great measure to the officers who commanded the 4th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 52nd and 53rd Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters, who have each allocated a considerable sum to our funds.

" In passing, I should like to mention, briefly, a very important step taken by the Executive Committee during the past year. I make reference to the transfer of the Trust Fund from the Trustees appointed by the Association to the United Services Trustee, which has now taken place. The Executive Committee were sorry this matter could not have been dealt with at an annual business meeting of the Association ; but as both the Trustees expressed a wish to be relieved of their trusteeship, the work had to be done in committee, and I am to say that, with the valuable aid of General Roy, the matter has been satisfactorily disposed of, and I am able this afternoon to produce a certificate from the United Services Trustee, showing the amount of securities belonging to the Association now held by him. It was an important step to take, and the Committee feel that they would like the endorsement of the meeting on this matter.

" The best thanks of the Association are due to the retiring

Trustees, General Sir F. C. Shaw and Colonel Chambers-Didham, for the good work they did while serving the Association in this capacity.

"I should also like to make special mention of the legacy left to the Association by the late No. 11173 Corpl. James Marsden, who, by will, left all his effects, including his war medals, to the Association; and it is worth recording that, probably when times were going hard with him, he remembered his old comrades and left them his all.

"I am sorry to say that we have already lost, through death, several of our members, whose names will appear in the Annual Report at the end of the year."

The Reports were passed; the action of the Executive Committee in placing to investment the sum of £1000 was approved.

The Secretary was instructed to convey the best thanks of the Association to the retiring Trustees, General Sir F. C. Shaw and Colonel Chambers-Didham, for their good work while Trustees of the Association.

The Officers of the Association for the ensuing year were then duly elected.

The Secretary's salary came up for review, and after several members had spoken on the matter, and it had been pointed out that the Secretary had only taken £50 of the amount allotted to him by the last General Meeting, it was proposed by Brig.-Gen. Leveson-Gower, and seconded by R.S.M. Wilson, that the Secretary be paid £50 for the coming year. This proposal was carried.

It was proposed by Major C. D. Harvey, and seconded by Mr. Skerritt, that the names of the Right Hon. Lieut.-Gen. Sir F. C. Shaw, K.C.B., and Brig.-Gen. J. W. G. Roy, C.M.G., be added to the list of Vice-Presidents of the Association.—Carried unanimously.

Brig.-Gen. Roy stated that he was proud of the honour thus conferred upon him, and expressed his great pleasure in working for the good of the Association at all times.

The following proposals respecting the Bye-laws of the Association, brought forward by the Executive Committee, were then dealt with :—

Bye-law 4 : "That the annual subscription and life membership be raised."

Considerable diversity of opinion was expressed on this matter, and after Brig.-Gen. Leveson-Gower, R.S.M. Lawrence, Messrs. Skerritt, Holmes, Plaster and Martin had spoken, it was agreed that, for the present, no alteration be made, but that every endeavour be made to meet the growing expenditure by increased membership.

Bye-law 6 : To read " through the United Services Trustee."
—Carried.

Bye-law 11, first paragraph : To read, "The Executive Committee, which shall consist of six members, with the Officer Commanding the Depot as Chairman, shall assemble whenever necessary in the opinion of the Chairman, but not less than twice yearly, and at one of these meetings shall make all arrangements for the Annual Dinner."—Carried.

Bye-law 12 : Recommended that the limit of the grant to be expended on any one case be increased from £3 to £6.—Carried.

The following proposals, submitted by Mr. S. Beresford, of Chesterfield, were dealt with :—

"That Bye-law 2 be amended so that the outlying districts in the two counties may meet annually, by having Annual Dinners in the four districts, viz. Nottingham, Mansfield, Chesterfield, Derby."

Alternative proposal :—

"Failing proposal above being accepted by the General Meeting, proposed that the Annual Dinner for 1921 take place at Chesterfield."

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the alternative proposal only was dealt with, the other being withdrawn.

Messrs. Beresford and Holmes, both of Chesterfield, spoke strongly in favour of the proposal, and hoped that the members would be agreeable to give Chesterfield, as a venue for the next Annual Dinner, a trial, and promised that every effort would be made to make it a success, both by those in Chesterfield and also the surrounding districts.

It was pointed out that Bye-law 2 only stated Nottingham and Derby.

On the proposal of Brig.-Gen. Leveson-Gower, and seconded by Mr. Skerritt, the following was accepted by the meeting :—

"That the proposal to hold the Annual Dinner for 1921 at Chesterfield be passed as a tentative measure only, and that in order to do so Bye-law 2 be suspended for next year only."

Before the meeting concluded Major M. McGuire, O.B.E., asked leave to mention the excellent work done by our late Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Lieut. A. Ewin, who was killed in action during the late war, and made a suggestion that, in order to mark our high appreciation of good service rendered, and in view of the fact that this gallant officer had left a widow and eight children, the Association should, through its Executive, ask the acceptance by Mrs. Ewin of a sum of money from the General Fund of the Association; also that a letter of condolence from the General Meeting be sent.

The suggestion was unanimously agreed to, and the sum of £50 allocated from the General Fund for this purpose.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services.

REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE

IN submitting the Report showing the work carried out by the Benevolent Committee during the year, I am glad to say that, although the Committee's activities have not yet reached the limits they did prior to the war period, there has been good work performed; which goes to show that, although there are other organisations of a similar nature in existence, there is a sphere of usefulness for our benevolent work, which should encourage any who render financial help to us to be assured that the money thus given is used in a worthy cause.

During the period under review there have been thirty-five cases disposed of, and, with the exception of two, all have been afforded assistance in one way or another.

Seven of the cases have been in connection with the funerals of our comrades, and in this particular it is nice to record that,

by the assistance rendered, in several cases the humiliating fact of being buried as a pauper has been obviated. In one case we gave assistance to the relatives of a brave young soldier who met his death while on duty in Ireland. In another case, in addition to helping to meet the expenses of the funeral of one of our own members—who left as orphans a boy and a girl—we were able to get the boy into the Newport Market Training Home, and our representative has still under his observation the young girl, for whom we are endeavouring to obtain suitable employment. In yet another case we not only assisted the wife of the deceased soldier, but we also gave help to his widowed mother, who had given several of her sons in the Great War.

In passing, the Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Officer Commanding the Depot, who has been good enough to furnish funeral parties for us whenever asked to do so, and, in this connection, has been good enough to defray certain expenses from his own Regimental Funds.

Thirteen of the cases dealt with were on account of old age and infirmity, and we all know how very hard hit this class has been during the last few years. In this connection we have assisted no less than ten widows whose cases were brought to our notice. To one we gave a load of coals, and for another we paid the half-yearly rate bill.

Five of the cases were in consequence of sickness, and, in addition to giving temporary assistance, in one case we have taken the matter up with the Nottingham Watch Committee, as the man had a small police pension, and we are hoping to be the means of getting an increase in this pension. In another case we are endeavouring to get a man a pension, although the matter has already been turned down by the local pension authorities.

Five cases we helped in consequence of sickness and unemployment, one being a particularly sad case of a man suffering from an incurable disease and badly needing help.

In addition to the cases which have been described, there have been *five cases* which might be described as "special cases." We gave assistance to our fullest capacity to a man who had been left a widower with eight children, his wife

having died during the air raids. Another one we helped to get some clothing, in order that he might attend his wife's funeral. To two others we gave grants to obtain boots and clothing, as by so doing they could obtain situations; and yet to another we gave a grant toward the purchase of an overcoat, which had been stolen from the man while at work, together with a part of his wages, which were, unfortunately, in the coat pocket.

Of the cases which were not given any assistance, one was in respect of a loan, the urgency of which we could not ascertain; and the other was in respect of a man of whom we inquired of one of our own office members (in fact, the man's employer), and the report was not satisfactory.

The amount spent on the cases under review was £91 14s. 8d. The Committee have met quarterly, and in the intervals have dealt with cases through the post, in this way avoiding unnecessary delays.

I hardly need add that the work of this Committee has entailed a considerable amount of visiting and making inquiries, and in this particular the thanks of the Association are due in no small measure to the members of the Committee, who have willingly and cheerfully carried out the work, to the best of their ability.

NINTH ANNUAL DINNER.

THE annual gathering was held in the Arboretum Rooms, Nottingham, on Saturday, 4th December, 1920, after having been postponed from the 23rd October from causes over which we had no control.

Major-Gen. B. F. Burnett-Hitchcock, C.B., D.S.O., occupied the Chair, and the following officers were present:—

Major-Gen. B. F. Burnett-Hitchcock, C.B., D.S.O., Brig.-Gen. J. W. G. Roy, C.M.G., Brig.-Gen. P. Leveson-Gower, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonel H. E. D. Disbrowe-Wise, C.B.E., Lt.-Col. A. Hacking, Major C. D. Harvey, D.S.O., Major E. N. T. Collin, Major C. E. Hudson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Major P. R. Anley, Major H. B. Hume, Major F. Tyler, Major W.

Seaton, M.C., Major G. F. Luther, Major M. McGuire, O.B.E., Major J. P. Read, Major Robinson, Capt. F. A. W. Coman, M.C., Capt. J. W. Keith, Capt. S. G. Walker, Capt. C. N. Jones, Capt. E. A. Pollard, Capt. J. Farnsworth, Capt. W. C. C. Weetman, Capt. E. Skinner, M.C., Lieut. G. N. N. Pitt, Lieut. H. Stephenson, Lieut. E. Brassington.

Some 210 guests sat down to an excellent repast, supplied by the Nottingham Catering Company, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves amidst the splendid feeling of comradeship shown by all ranks.

The musical programme was furnished by the band from the Depot, under the conductorship of Sergt.-Drummer Hillier, by the kind permission of Major C. D. Harvey, D.S.O., and officers, and during the dinner rendered a very interesting programme, which was much appreciated.

The first toast of the evening was given by the Chairman—"The King."

In the regrettable absence of Colonel H. C. Wylly, C.B., owing to eye trouble, the toast "Absent Friends" was given by Brig.-Gen. J. W. G. Roy, C.M.G., who remarked that, although this toast usually referred to those who had passed away, he suggested that on this occasion he would make mention particularly of those who from other causes could not be with them that evening—the 1st Battalion at Blackdown, the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, and the many officers and others who were not with them, but would have liked to have been.

The Chairman, in proposing the "Old Comrades' Association," said: Before giving you this toast, I think I am right in saying that, although no message has thus far been received from our President, General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, there is no doubt that he would be thinking of our gathering together this evening, and would be wishing us well. I have, however, been given some messages which have been received, and which I will read out to you :—

From Colonel H. C. Wylly, C.B.—

"Best wishes. Please remember me to all Old Comrades, and say how very sorry I am not to be with them."

From Colonel T. H. M. Green, D.S.O.—

Old Comrades' Association 147

" Please tell the Old Comrades how very disappointed I am. I had been looking forward to the Nottingham gathering."

Major Johnson—

" Much regret unable to be present, owing to illness."

Capt. W. W. Hancock—

" Some day before I die I hope to be able to attend the Annual Dinner. This year, I must content myself with drinking the health of my Old Comrades by my own fireside."

Colonel Bromley Way, C.B.E., M.V.O. (1st Battalion)—

" Deeply regret unable to be present."

In giving this toast, the Chairman said he thought he was expected to give some kind of review of the work done during the year, and pointed out that the Association had a balance in hand of £3994, which he considered very creditable. Although the number of members had increased from 257 to 650, he had no doubt that there was considerable scope for further increase in this direction, as the numbers were really out of all proportion to those who might be brought in, and he made a very earnest appeal for increased membership, which also meant increased funds. The thing to-day was to belong to the Association. In the changing and difficult times through which we were passing, the greater the comradeship, and the more there were who owed allegiance to the Regiment and through it to their King and country, the stronger would they be to stand for what was right and just.

He said he was Director-General of Recruiting at the War Office just now, and was pleased to tell them that our Regiment was one of the very few that was over strength. The strength reported that morning was 1802, which was a surplus of 107 ; but within the next six months 454 men would complete their service. He appealed to all Old Comrades to recruit for the Regiment and keep it up to strength. He wanted nearly 350 men from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and laid the greatest stress on getting the sons and relations of men who had served in the Regiment ; he did hope it would not be necessary to recruit from outside sources.

He had been asked by Colonel Wylly to tell them that the advance copy of the Regimental Annual was now out, and to express the hope that, through the Secretary, everyone would give an order for a copy.

Coming down from London that afternoon he had met Major-Gen. Sir F. B. Maurice, who had told him that for a considerable time he kept the original date of the gathering vacant, in order to be present, but he deeply regretted that an appointment at Sheffield, in connection with Field-Marshal Earl Haig's scheme for ex-Service men, prevented him being present that evening ; but he was glad to let them know that the amalgamation of the several large ex-Service organisations would soon be an accomplished fact, which would mean greater unity instead of undesirable differences.

The Chairman also made special mention of the splendid gift to the Association by the late Corpl. Marsden, who, in addition to leaving them all his effects, had also bequeathed to the Association his war medals ; and concluded his remarks by reminding them that the next Annual Dinner was to be held at Chesterfield, and he hoped that everyone would do their best to make it a success.

The toast was then enthusiastically given.

Major M. McGuire, O.B.E., rising to respond to this toast, said he esteemed it a great honour to be asked to make this response. He had been a Sherwood Forester for nearly forty-five years, and the more he knew of this splendid corps the better he liked it. The men were splendid, good sportsmen, always willing and eager for any kind of work, however arduous or trying.

It was in 1907 that this Association was formed, the moving spirits being General (then Colonel) Shaw, who was at the time commanding the 2nd Battalion, General Roy and a few others. He (Major McGuire) started the ball rolling as Secretary and arranged for the first dinner, which was held in Victoria Hall, Nottingham ; the late Lieut. Ewin followed, and raised the numbers to 2000—this from the 1st and 2nd Battalions only—and during this period the funds rose to £1000. Then came the war, and during that period the duty of carrying on devolved upon him. He carried on the work as well as he could, helping wherever possible, and assisting to afford decent

burials to our comrades, who in many cases came home from the war to die.

Our numbers ought to be larger—the more the merrier ; and as all barriers had now been removed, he would like to appeal for more and yet more members. Nottingham had sent its thousands to the war—why were they not now in the Association ? He did sincerely hope the Sherwood Foresters would continue to be made up of men from the two counties.

Continuing, Major McGuire said the Association was doing good work through its benevolent branch, helping deserving cases, giving help whenever they could and all working together in harmony and goodwill. In conclusion, he reminded them of the message of the famous French Marshal, when speaking of the Sherwood Foresters, " France and humanity owe a debt to them that can never be repaid," and hoped we should always uphold such a glorious reputation.

XVI

THINGS THAT MATTER

THE CLAIM OF THE REGIMENT TO THE HONOUR OF "NIVE."

THE following correspondence has passed on the above subject between the Colonel of the Regiment and the Secretary, War Office :—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, GIBRALTAR,
16th May, 1921.

SIR,

There is a strong feeling amongst all ranks, past and present, of the Sherwood Foresters that the Regiment is entitled to bear on its Colours the Battle of "Nive," fought on the 9th to 13th December, 1813, and the evidence on the subject is so convincing that I venture to ask you to lay the matter before the Army Council, with a view to the claim being considered by the Committee on Honours and Distinctions. I attach in memorandum form a brief statement of the claim, with arguments in favour of it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. L. SMITH-DORRIEN,
General,

Colonel, the Sherwood Foresters
(Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

The Secretary, War Office,
London, S.W. 1.

THE CLAIM OF THE 45TH REGIMENT—NOW THE 1ST BATTALION
SHERWOOD FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBY-
SHIRE REGIMENT—TO THE BATTLE HONOUR OF "NIVE."

Throughout the Peninsular War the 45th served in the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Division with the 74th and 88th Regiments.

It is clear from the account of the Battle of Nive, fought on the 9th-13th December, 1813, contained in the IXth Volume of Mr. Fortescue's *History of the British Army*, and from that in Wellington's despatch on the action, that at least two Brigades of the 3rd Division were employed.

The Divisional Commander, Colville, got no clasp for Nive, presumably because the whole Division was not engaged ; but as the commanders of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, Brisbane and Keane, both received clasps, it is clear that their Brigades took part in the action.

There appears to be no return of the strength of regiments of the 3rd Division on the date of the action, but there are in existence returns of strength of the regiments of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, immediately before and after. These give the following :—

<i>Officers</i>			
<i>(including Surgeons)</i>			
		<i>Other Ranks.</i>	
45th.	25/11/13	36	523
45th.	25/12/13	36	537
74th.	25/11/13	31	451
74th.	25/12/13	36	510
88th.	25/11/13	33	786
88th.	25/12/13	35	819

An examination of the Peninsular Medal rolls of these three regiments preserved in the War Office shows that, *thirty-four years after the Battle of Nive*, the number of officers and men of these three corps who received the General Service Medal and established their claims to the Nive clasp was as under :—

<i>Medals.</i>			<i>Nive Clasp.</i>	
	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
45th.	24	254	.. 13	31
74th.	21	203	.. 7	26
88th.	25	380	.. 7	114

Thus, if we take the *mean* of the strengths in November and December, 1813, in order to arrive at the probable strengths of the three regiments of the 1st Brigade in the action, we find that in the 45th of the surviving officers more

than a third of those present in 1813 and of the surviving men 1 in 17; in the 74th, of the surviving officers more than a fifth of those present in 1813 and of the surviving men 1 in 18; and in the 88th, of the surviving officers more than a fifth of those present in 1813 and of the surviving men 1 in 7, were present at the Battle of Nive.

Further, the percentage per corps of the survivors who were awarded Peninsular Medals and established their claims to the Nive Clasp works out as follows :—

45th.	Officers,	54·16	per cent.	Men,	12·20	per cent.
74th.	„	33·33	„	„	12·80	„
88th.	„	28·00	„	„	30·00	„

If, then, thirty-four years after Nive was fought more than a third of the officers on the strength in 1813 and 1 in 7 of the numbers present with the 45th were able to establish their claims to the clasp for the battle, it seems indisputable that the Regiment was present and is entitled to bear the Battle Honour on its Colours.

WAR OFFICE, 27, PILGRIM STREET,
LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.4.

7th June, 1921.

(Medal Branch, A.G. 10.)

20/Infy/1456.

SIR,

With reference to your letter dated the 16th ultimo, forwarding a memorandum on the question of the claim of the Sherwood Foresters to bear on their Colours the Battle Honour "Nive," I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that the award of Battle Honours in connection with the Battles of the Peninsular War formed the subject of an exhaustive examination by Major-General Ewart's Committee in 1909, resulting in the extension of the Honour "Nive" to certain Regiments which had not hitherto borne it.

I am to say that as the present application does not bring to light any fresh facts in connection with this battle, the

Council regret that they are not prepared to sanction the re-opening of the question.

I am also to add that the official casualty lists show that the 45th Regiment sustained no casualties of any kind during this battle.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) B. B. CUBITT.

General Sir H. L. SMITH-DORRIEN,

G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Government House, Gibraltar.

THE WRECK OF THE "BIRKENHEAD"

In the Officers' Messes of the 1st Battalion and Depot there have for some years been hung prints of Hemy's picture of the wreck of the *Birkenhead*, to which lately keys have been added showing to what regiments the men depicted belonged. Two of the figures in the picture are given as 45th men, and it is thought that the following additional particulars may be of interest.

From the Monthly Returns, dated 1st February, 1852 (to be seen at the Public Record Office under W.O. 17/642), we find that four privates of the 45th Regiment proceeded to join the service companies at the Cape of Good Hope; and from the Muster Rolls (W.O. 12/5762) for December, 1851, it appears that the names of these four were Ptes. George Cacher (should be Corker), William Connell, Martin Dockery and Adam Reding (should be Keating), and that they appear to have proceeded to port of embarkation and were struck off the home strength on the 2nd January, 1852. They were attached while on the voyage to a draft of the 12th Foot.

The Official Report of the loss of the *Birkenhead* will be found preserved at the Public Record Office among In-Letters Adm. 1/5612 for 1852, and shows that out of 630 souls on board 438 were drowned, but owing to the discipline and self-sacrifice of the troops—all young soldiers, be it remembered!—the seven women and thirteen children on the ship were saved.

The Port Elizabeth *Mercury* of the 13th March, 1852, contains a list of the drowned, and among these are, of the 45th

Regiment, Ptes. " G. Cocker, Wm. Connell, M. Daughtery "
(should be Dockery); "saved, Adam Keating."

" . . . The Brave who died,
Died without flinching in the bloody surf—*
They sleep as well beneath that purple tide,
As others under turf."

SOME OF OUR GRAVES

EXETER CATHEDRAL

In South Transept.

" Near this spot are interred the remains of Lieut. General William Guard, many years in command of the 45th Regt. His conduct as a soldier during a long period of active employment was marked by a strict sense of honour, and the most ardent zeal for his profession. In acknowledgement of his services he was made Governor of Kinsale and Charles Fort. All who knew his worth lamented him, and the remembrance of his uniform kindness in the several relations of private life will ever be cherished by his afflicted family with feelings of affectionate gratitude. He died at Exeter 13th July, 1830, aged 57. This tablet was erected by his children."

In St. Mary Magdalen's Chapel (near Lady Chapel).

" Underneath lies the body of Bryan Blundell, Esq. (second son of Jonathan Blundell, Esq., of Liverpool, in the county of Lancashire), Major-General in the Army and Lieut.-Colonel of the 45th Regt. of Foot. He particularly distinguished himself in the command of the second battalion of Light Infantry in 1794, under Lieut.-General Sir Charles Grey, Bart., at the taking of the Islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and St. Lucia. His private virtues and his military talents were alike conspicuous; the one bespoke the Man, the other the

* In allusion to the sharks by which many swimmers lost their lives.

Soldier. He died in this City 23rd September, 1799, at the early age of 42. A Grief to his friends, and a Loss to his Country."

In the Cemetery overlooking the Quarantine Harbour, Malta.

" Sacred to the Memory of

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL WYLLY, C.B.,

Late Lieut.-Colonel Commanding H.M.'s 95th Regiment,
Who departed this life on the 10th day of November, 1827.

Aged 39 years."

In the Cemetery at Teddington, Middlesex.

" Sacred to the Memory of

COLONEL ALEXANDER J. J. MACDONALD,

The last chief of the old historic family of Glencoe,

Late 95th Derbyshire Regiment,

Who died at Teddington, December 17th, 1889,

After thirty-six years great suffering caused by
Twenty-one wounds received in the Crimea at the Battles
Of " Alma " and " Inkerman."

Aged 60 years.

This Monument is erected by his surviving brother officers
As a Token of their esteem and regard."

FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS.

From an *Illustrated London News* of May, 1855, we find that the following officers and men of the 95th Regiment received their Crimean Medals at the hands of Queen Victoria on the Horse Guards Parade on the 18th May, 1855 :—

Lieut.-Colonel Hume, Captains Charlton, Garrard and Morgan, Lieutenants Bazalgette, Smith and Boothby, Sergeant Joseph Murphy, Privates Joseph Chun (? Cheen), Henry Haslem and Patrick Mullany.

From *The Times* of November, 1882, it appears that the following non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Battalion Derbyshire Regiment received their medals for the Egyptian Campaign, then just concluded, from Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle on the 18th November, 1882 :—

No. 1420 Lance-Sergeant H. Cooper and No. 58 Corporal J. Evenden.

A CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK.

We take the following from the *Army and Navy Gazette* of the 4th June last :—

“ Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment (45th and 95th). Those who read of the terrible and wholesale assassination that took place on May 15th at the gates of Ballyturin House, Gort, Ireland, when Captain and Mrs. Blake and two officers of the 17th Lancers were shot down, will remember the extraordinarily brave action of a Miss Molly Bagott, who at once saddled a horse and galloped off to Gort to give information and procure assistance. This plucky young lady is a granddaughter of the late Colonel “ Billy ” Fleming, 95th Regiment, who retired from the Service in 1881, and for some years prior to his death was the Master of a pack of harriers in Derbyshire.”

General Smith-Dorrien made special allusion at the Regimental Dinner to this brave deed, for the young lady practically carried her life in her hands during her ride—and recalled what a good sportsman was Billy Fleming, adding “ everything I know about horses I learnt from him.”

XVII

THE ANNUAL DINNER, OFFICERS 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS

THE Forty-sixth Annual Dinner was held at the Langham Hotel on the 2nd June, preceded on the same afternoon and same place by the Reunion of the Ladies of the Regiment, and a bumper attendance was secured, mainly, if not indeed entirely, due to the fact that the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, had announced his intention of being present and travelled to England from Gibraltar especially for the purpose. No fewer than sixty-three past and present officers had announced their intention of coming, and even though four of these failed at the last, owing to coal strikes and railway difficulties, there still remained fifty-nine, which must be something like a record.

The following are the names of those who dined :—

General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., in the Chair ; Lieut.-Gen. the Rt. Hon. Sir F. Shaw, K.C.B. ; Major-Gens. Burnett Hitchcock, C.B., D.S.O., and Sir F. Maurice, K.C.M.G., C.B. ; Brig.-Gens. Wolley-Dod, C.B., D.S.O., Leveson-Gower, C.M.G., D.S.O., Iggulden, C.I.E., and Roy, C.M.G. ; Colonels Dalbiac, C.B., McCleverty and Wylly, C.B. ; Lieut.-Cols. Brownrigg, D.S.O., Gordon-Cumming, Dumbell, D.S.O., Green, D.S.O., Hart, D.S.O., Impey, C.S.I., C.I.E., Keller, O.B.E., D.S.O., Munn, C.M.G., Murray, O.B.E., Popham, C.M.G., D.S.O., Reeks, Way, C.B.E., M.V.O., and Wilson ; Majors Collin, Coney, Crealock, Gilson, Gosset, Harvey, D.S.O., Hume, M.B.E., Hudson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Meares, Miller, M.C., Parkinson, M.V.O., Rhodes, O.B.E., Wayte, D.S.O., and Wybergh ; Capts. Crofton, Edwards, Lloyd, Chidlow-Roberts, M.C., Tower, M.C., Whicher and Wilkinson, D.S.O., M.C. ; Lieuts.

Allen, Andrews, M.C., Balguy, Dean, Ebsworth, Fowler, Gamble, Jacques, M.C., Jones, M.C., Milward, Platt, Sullivan-Tailyour, M.C., Turner, M.C., Twamley and Willison, D.S.O., M.C.; 2nd Lieuts. Coleman, Collins and Johnson.

During the course of the evening the following telegrams were sent to Colonels Hooke and Knatchbull, the two oldest members of the Dinner Club, who had unfortunately been prevented from attending: "Sixty-two brother officers send you heartiest greetings."

The following very charming acknowledgment was received by the Hon. Sec. next day from Colonel Norton Knatchbull, the last of our Crimean officers:—

[*Copy.*]

ORIELTON, ANDOVER,

June 3rd, 1921.

MY DEAR WYLLY,

I was very greatly touched by the very kind message which I received this morning, signed by your last night's Chairman, conveying the hearty greetings of sixty-two brother officers. I have no means of letting them know how much I thank them, one and all, for their good wishes, and how greatly I appreciate the kind thought which prompted the act. If you should see Smith-Dorrien before he leaves for Gib., please give him my very kind remembrances, and tell him I was quite overcome at the receipt of his telegram. I should like to write to him if he is staying longer in England. I am so glad you had such a bumper gathering. My thoughts were much with you all, and I longed to be there.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) NORTON KNATCHBULL.

XVIII

CORRESPONDENCE

YARTY HOUSE, AXMINSTER,

May 20th, 1921.

DEAR SIR,

In the Annual of 1911, on pp. 183-4, certain discrepancies are pointed out in the casualty lists of the 1st Battalion in South Africa, as given in Gilson's book and in the *Official History*. The discrepancies are small and the point is of no real importance; but it is well to be accurate even in trifles, and statistics are valueless if incorrect. The *Official History* states that two "other ranks" were captured. The Regimental History reports none. On this point the *Official History* is right.

On Sunday, November 4th, 1900, two men of the Regiment, who were on the "Kopje Piquet" at Bank, wandered off to look for eggs. Each man took his rifle and twelve rounds of ammunition. They were rounded up by six Boers, and captured after they had fired off their rounds. The Boers treated them remarkably well. They kept them for one night. Next morning they put them on horses and took them north to the Krugersdorp-Mafeking road, where they put them down. They told them to walk to Mafeking, and gave them a pass, telling Boers not to interfere with them and to give them food. Next day they fell in with Clements' Column and reported themselves. The Court of Enquiry on the two men was held at Bank on November 18th. Radford was President, and I was one of the members.

W. H. WILKIN,
Major,

Late The Sherwood Foresters.

NOTICE

All are asked to note that owing to the present high cost of book-production copies of the Annual must be charged as under :

<i>In boards</i>	.	.	.	.	.	7/6 each
<i>In paper covers (officers)</i>	.	.	.	.	.	5/- "
"	"	"	"	(other ranks).	.	2/6 "

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